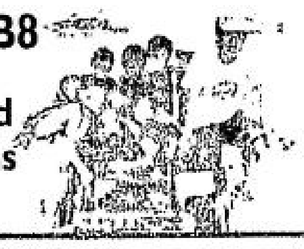
■ Across/A14

Movie inspires art exhibit in Bicol

■ Motoring / B8



Sectors urged to make roads safer for kids

■ Lifestyle / C1

A taste of merry ol' England

■ World / A7

US death toll in Iraq mounts

■ Sports / A17

Tour champs target Olympic berths

Campaign rhetoric gives way to Lenten reflection

By Blanche S. Rivera, TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

CAMPAIGN rhetoric has given way to "serious" reflection during the three most solemn days of Holy Week for the four presidential candidates.

In keeping with his standing as a

CAMPAIGN/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

NO INQUIRER on Good Friday and Black Saturday

YES, INQUIRER resumes publication on Easter Sunday

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, April 8, 2004 ★★ 36 pages / 3 sections / vol. 19 / no. 122 P18

website: www.Inq7.net

Antiterror alert still up

GMA taps Muslim cops vs terrorists

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed to tap Muslim policemen in hunting down suspected terrorists, in an effort to dispel fears that her campaign against terror had members of the Islam faith as targets.

She ordered the formation of the "Salaam Police" after a dialogue over dinner on Tuesday with 15 Muslim leaders and actor Robin Padilla, an Islam convert, at the Music Conference Room in Malacañang. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

Padilla welcomed the idea, saying the Salaam Police should be able to monitor the arrest of and possible human rights violations against his fellow Muslims.

He called on Filipino Muslims to be calm and to lay aside planned mass actions against the government.

The Salaam Police will have as members Muslim policemen to be selected by a search committee composed of the police commanders of Zamboanga, Basilan and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

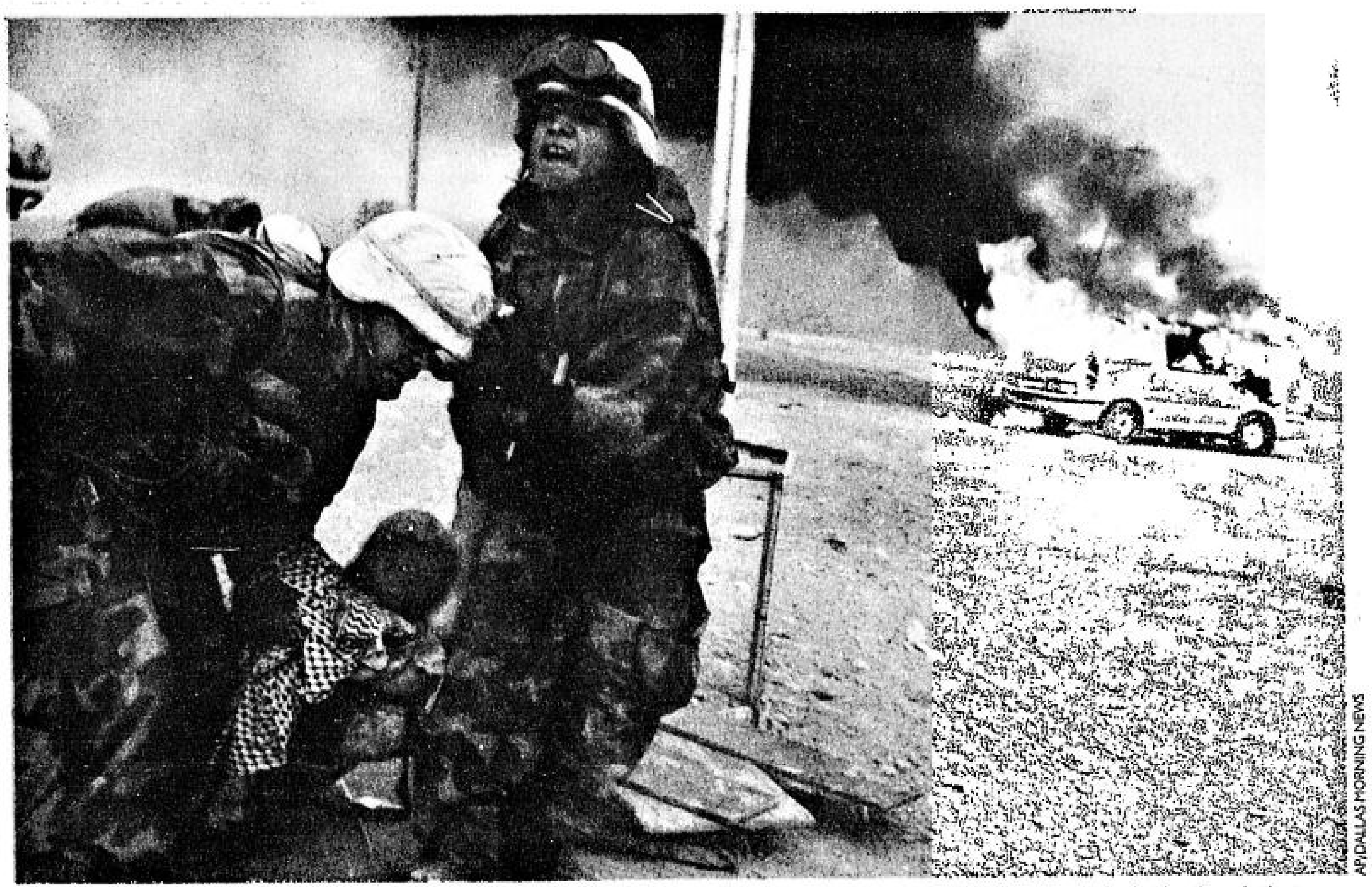
Presidential assistant on the peace process Teresita Quintos Deles will serve as officer in charge of matters concerning the new police team.

Earlier, the Muslim leaders and Padilla decided to defer their plan to hold protest actions, including a march on Malacañang, after Ms Macapagal agreed to the hastily arranged dialogue.

Members of the Muslim community are in an uproar over the crackdown on Muslim villages that led to the arrest last week of six men alleged to be members of the Abu Sayyaf.

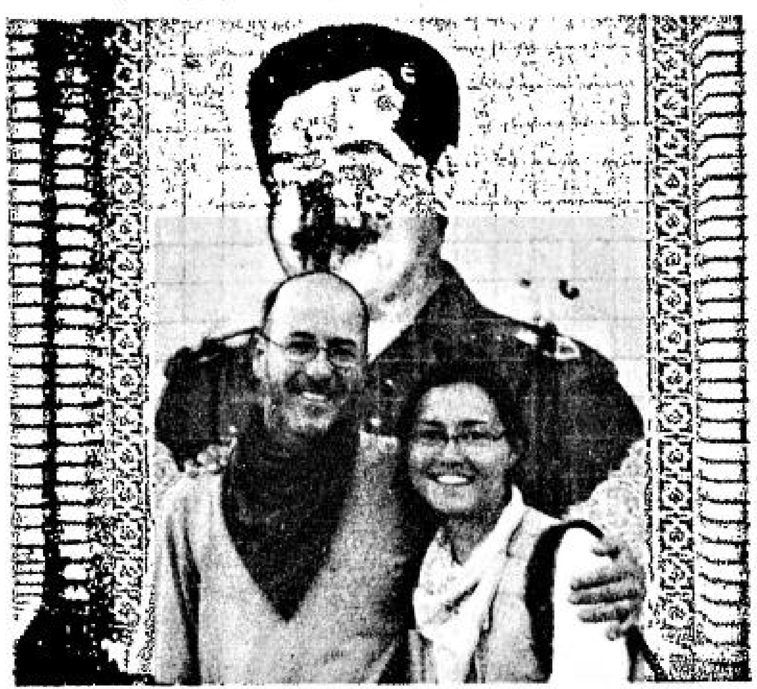
Muslim leaders charged that police were picking up innocent Muslims and pressuring them into confessing to links with Islamic

GMA/ A6



AP/DALLAS MORNING NEWS

IMAGES OF WAR in Iraq, like this one of two American soldiers dragging a wounded Iraqi civilian to safety, make up the body of work that won for Fil-Am photographer Cheryl Diaz Meyer of the Dallas Morning News the Pulitzer for breaking news photography.



AP/DALLAS MORNING NEWS

PULITZER PAIR Cheryl Diaz Meyer and David Leeson in front of the bullet-riddled portrait of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad.

Pinay photographer is Pulitzer winner

AN AWARD-WINNING Filipino-American woman photographer who had joined journalists embedded with US military forces in Iraq last year, won yet another accolade on Monday—the highly coveted Pulitzer Prize for photography, sharing the honor with a colleague in the Dallas Morning News.

Cheryl Diaz Meyer, who was born and raised in Legaspi, Albay, before her family migrated to the United States in 1981, held back her tears and thanked her German husband and family "who gave me the strength to go on," and to her fellow photographers and photo editors for "putting up with me and for their support."

Cheryl is the fourth ethnic Filipino to win the award. The late Carlos P. Romulo, former foreign affairs secretary and the first Asian president of the United Nations General Assembly, was also a Pulitzer Prize awardee in 1942 for international correspondence, for a series of articles he wrote as a newspaperman at the Philippines Herald predicting the outbreak of World War II.

PINAY/ A4

No letup in security around targets

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Christian V. Esguerra

ROUND-THE-CLOCK surveillance is in place for local extremists and their foreign trainers and financiers, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday.

Ms Macapagal said that while her administration had foiled a terror plan to launch "Madrid-level bombings" in Metro Manila with the arrest last week of six suspected Abu Sayyaf members and the interception of a cache of explosives, some of the terrorists could still be in hiding and more materiel for bomb-making were still being shipped into the country.

"We are closely watching foreigners in the country who may have taught them to make bombs and who may have laundered money from the al-Qaida and the Jemaah Islamiya into the pockets of local bombers," she said in a statement.

"Our sea and air ports are under 24-hour surveillance," she added.

Apart from the surveillance, the Philippine National Police said it had further tightened security at embassies, shopping malls and other possible targets in Metro Manila.

Director Ricardo de Leon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, refused to disclose the

ANTITERROR/ A6

Trillanes home for baby's wake

By Alcuin Papa

ONE of the leaders of the Magdalo group that launched the failed mutiny in Makati last July is in Baguio for the wake of his infant son who died Tuesday.

But Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes, 32, is still in the custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, his lawyer, Ruel Pulido, told the INQUIRER last night.

Pulido said Trillanes had earlier been given permission by Judge Oscar Pimentel of the

TRILLANES/ A4

Yet another promise for Filipino war veterans

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MT. SAMAT, Bataan—Striking a by now familiar theme in the yearly commemoration of the fall of Bataan, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday promised she would personally pursue with US President George W. Bush the grant of pension benefits to Filipino World War II veterans residing in the Philippines.

Speaking before 2,000 war veterans gathered at the Dambana ng Kagitingan here, the President said she would ask Bush to persuade the United States Congress to pass a law to benefit the Filipino veterans of that war, majority of whom are residing in the Philippines.

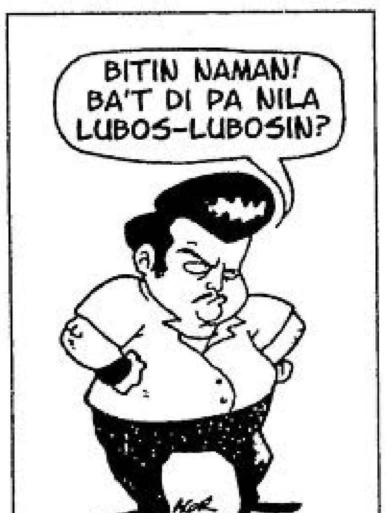
Ms Macapagal noted in her speech that her foreign policy and friendship with the US have helped the veterans' cause.

She noted that after her US state visit last year, Bush gave P50 million worth of medical equipment to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and signed two laws increasing the health care and other benefits to Filipino veterans living in the US to the tune of $20 million a year.

"This is the fruit of our strong foreign policy and the restoration of respect to our country," she said.

"For our veterans, because our relations with the United States have improved, I am personally

YET/ A6



BITIN NAMAN!
BA'T DI PA NILA LUBOS-LUBOSIN?
NOR

Erap gripes retreat too short

By Armand P. Nocum

HAVING granted him leave to undergo a three-day "spiritual retreat" at his Tanay vacation estate, why couldn't the Sandiganbayan have the largeness of heart to allow him the freedom to celebrate the gloriousness of Easter in the luxurious surroundings of his private resort?

RETREAT/ A4

Those who've nothing, no one, find a home

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

JOSE Jobahib, then 78 and living in the Payatas dumpsite slums, was all set to go to the Quiapo Bridge in Manila. He was taking with him Judith, his 48-year-old daughter with Down's Syndrome, and with her tied to him was going to jump off the bridge.

Fred Sevilla, 62, a former University of the Philippines professor and author of a book on Philippine literature, is badly paralyzed because of a stroke. He has nothing and no one to care for him.

Rosario Costales, 75, has a career woman for a daughter who strongly put in writing her intention to relinquish responsibility over her mother.

Jomar Brillantes, 24, was a badly battered and scarred mental retardate who literally lived in the gutters and lived off scraps thrown in his direction.

They are among the 60 residents of Anawim, Home of God's Poor. And they are home—and at home—at last.

Anawim is nestled in a sprawling five-hectare property on the outskirts of Montalban (Rodriguez), Rizal. It is run by the Anawim Lay Missions Foundation Inc., the "mercy mission" of the Light of Jesus Community, a Catholic charismatic group founded by Bo Sanchez, a married lay preacher. Anawim is Hebrew for "the

THOSE/ A4

LONG AND WINDING ROAD for this grandmother ends at this haven for God's poor, the Anawim, a 5-hectare property on the outskirts of Montalban, Rizal, run by the Light of Jesus Community.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST. The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds blowing from the east and northeast and east will prevail throughout the archipelago and the coastal waters will be slight to moderate.

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/04/08/04 . SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Banning leftist groups may derail peace talks–Joma

SELF-EXILED communist leader Jose Ma. Sison yesterday warned against moves to ban leftist parties from the May 10 elections, saying these could affect the forthcoming peace talks between the government and communist rebels set late this month.

"The third round of the formal talks may be prejudiced," said Sison in a long-distance telephone interview with ABS-CBN television. The upcoming round of peace negotiations is scheduled for April 26-29 in a still undecided venue.

National security adviser Norberto Gonzales had sought a ban on six leftist party-list groups participating in the May 10 elections on the grounds they were fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Gonzales had called for the disqualification of Bayan Muna and its five allies vying for House seats in the polls, namely, Gabriela, Anak ng Bayan, Anakpawis, Migrante and Suara Bangsa Moro.

Sison said the allegations would likely encourage military brutality.

"The nasty talk of Gonzales can encourage the military brutes of the regime to kill some more of the leftists," Sison said.

Speaking from exile in the Netherlands, Sison denied allegations by Gonzales that Bayan Muna and the other leftist parties were the political front-men for communist guerrillas. "I don't give them orders," Sison said.

Sison reiterated that the holding of peace talks would not immediately halt the National People Army's guerrilla campaign, saying that "there would be no peace talks if there is no armed struggle."

Two rounds

The government and communist rebels held two rounds of peace talks in Oslo, Norway, in February and March aimed at ending the 35-year rebellion that has claimed thousands of lives.

Gonzales, however, had stressed that he wanted the parties banned not for being communist but for supporting the NPA, which has recently stepped up attacks on government targets and rural businesses in the countryside.

An anti-communist group, the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy, had said it would support moves to disqualify Bayan Muna and the other leftist parties, charging that their members had been threatened by Bayan Muna members for opposing the communists.

But the Partido ng Manggagawa, another party-list group, came to the defense of the six groups.

Sabotage

PM Rep. Renato Magtubo said the move to disqualify Bayan Muna and its allies was an attempt to sabotage the whole party-list system and destroy the intent of the law which created it.

"This attack is an attempt to discourage other party-list groups and organizations of the basic sectors from participating in the parliamentary and electoral struggle,"Magtubo, a former union leader, said in a statement.

Magtubo accused Gonzales of using his power to destroy the rivals of the Partido Demokratikong Sosyalista ang Pilipinas, a party-list group, which Gonzales founded.

In an earlier report, Gonzales accused the party-list groups of using their Countrywide Development Fund amounting to more than P500 million to "aid and abet" the NPA. *Martin P. Marfil, Volt Contreras, TJ Burgonio, AFP*

John Paul: Pray for more priests

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II Tuesday called on Christians everywhere to "continue to pray for the Church to always have enough priests," despite evidence that the number of priests around the world was growing.

The number of Catholic priests had risen from 406,509 in 1961 to 439,850 in 2001, the Vatican said on Tuesday.

The Church has also grown in terms of believers, boasting a billion members compared to the 749 million reported 15 years ago.

But in a letter to priests released ahead of Holy Thursday, the Pope expressed concern over the number of available priests.

"In some parts of the world, the number of priests is dwindling without being replaced from one generation to the next," he said, adding that in other places, the priesthood had seen a promising renewal of interest.

In Europe and America, the priesthood is shrinking but it has grown in Latin America and "nearly doubled" in Africa and Asia, the secretary for the Congregation for the Clergy Csaba Ternyak said.

The Pope also urged priests to encourage children to join the Church as altar boys or choir members, as a step toward joining the priesthood.

"Altar boys, with the right guidance from you, within the heart of the parish community can pave the way for growth in Christianity," he said.

"If children and adolescents witness the joy priests have in being ministers of God, they may think that they too can have such joy," he said.

Statistics of the Congregation for the Clergy presented at a news conference showed the ratio of priests to Catholics had significantly dwindled. The statistics showed there was one priest for every 1,800 Catholics in the world in 1978 compared to one for every 2,619 in 2001.

But Vatican officials stressed that with increased life expectancy in recent decades, letting priests tend to their flocks longer, and a greater proportion of seminarians staying on to be ordained, the outlook wasn't as dim as some would think.

"I think the crisis has turned into a new form, according to culture, and we have all the hope for the better," said Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, head of the Congregation for the Clergy. *AFP, AP*

ACTOR Robin Padilla walks two released child-hostages from captivity in Basilan in this April 15, 2000 photo. At left is his bodyguard Abdulwali Villanueva, who was identified in the photo as a member of the Alharakatul Islamiyya.

PDI FILE PHOTO

Robin Padilla's Abu Sayyaf bodyguard freed on bail

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Philip C. Tubeza

AN ALLEGED member of an Abu Sayyaf cell accused of plotting to bomb specific Metro Manila targets is now free on bail.

Abdulwali Villanueva, said to be the bodyguard of action star Robin Padilla, walked out of his detention cell at Camp Crame yesterday afternoon after his wife posted P304,000 bail before three Quezon City Regional Trial Courts.

Padilla, an Islam convert since the mid-90's, personally fetched Villanueva, his bodyguard of 10 years, who has been implicated in the bombing plot with Marvin Rueca, Alhamser Manatad Limbong, alias Kosovo, Redendo Cain Dellosa, Radzman Sangkula Jul and Abdulsaid Sanjeng Lim.

Targets

On the group's target list were shopping malls, embassies, hotels, public utilities, and train stations in Metro Manila, according to the Philippine National Police.

The actor had met with President Macapagal-Arroyo the other day over allegations that the government was zeroing in on Muslims in its drive to flush out terrorists. The meeting averted a big protest rally Muslim communities were planning against the supposed crackdown.

Amirah Ali Lidasan of the party-list Suang Bangsamoro said Villanueva's release proved that complaints against the alleged crackdown had been heard.

But Hana Villanueva said her husband should have been released right after she got a court order on Monday. She suspects the PNP delayed the release so her husband could be presented with the others at a press conference in Camp Crame on Tuesday.

Yesterday, acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said the Philippines could not yet turn over Limbong to the United States following a request by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation for "access" to the terror suspects.

The US government wants Limbong so he can stand trial for the 2001 kidnapping of Americans Guillermo Sobero and Martin and Gracia Burnham from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan. Sobero was later executed, allegedly by Limbong.

DC court

Limbong had been charged with conspiracy to commit hostage-taking, resulting in the death and murder of a US national before a District of Columbia court.

Gutierrez said Limbong should be tried first in local courts before the government could consider the US request for his extradition, adding the courts would decide if he could be extradited after his trial.

"Limbong might be extradited if he does not get the death penalty. But the court would be the one to decide this," said a justice department official as her office readied the formal Philippine response to the US request.

The justice official said the DOJ is coordinating with the police and the military, who are still interrogating the suspects. The official said it would be up to the suspects' custodians to decide if they would grant the Americans access to the suspects.

Of the six, only Villanueva had a bailable offense. He was charged with illegal possession of explosives and firearms and violation of the election gun ban.

Similar charges

Police said he turned over the bombs and guns when he was arrested at the SM Fairview parking lot on March 28.

Rueca faces similar bailable charges. But the PNP said it would file a non-bailable case against him after witnesses implicated him and the others in the 2002 Dos Palmas kidnapping and the abduction of 43 people from four schools in Sumipsip, Basilan also in 2000, said PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao. *With Leila B. Salaverria*

A modern pilgrim's journey to the scene of Christ's trials

'There's going to be a bomb somewhere. This is all like Russian roulette'

By Nancy T. Lu
Contributor

FROM MY visit to Jerusalem, I brought a framed crown of thorns complete with a certificate saying that it had been "sanctified in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher."

I tell my friends that I want to be constantly reminded that life's pains are nothing compared to what Jesus Christ went through.

Traveling to Israel for the first time and making what I truly believe to be the trip of a lifetime, I only knew that I must try to retrace Jesus' steps, especially His passion. From the beginning, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Via Dolorosa were top priority on my itinerary.

My first day-long visit to Jerusalem began only hours after the early-morning assassination of Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Gaza City on March 22.

Our Israeli tour guide, Mendy Gonda, was visibly nervous and constantly talking into his mobile phone in Hebrew.

Seeing a police car blocking a vehicle, he said: "The police are checking the identity papers of Palestinians who slip illegally into Tel Aviv to find work and rounding them up."

Israel was taking no chances. The authorities were on full alert, and so was the glib Gonda.

"I'm not sure that I will be able to get you all into the Old City today," he announced.

As he drove the tourist bus, he said: "There's going to be a bomb somewhere. This is all like Russian roulette."

We stayed long at the rebuilt Jewish Quarter, checking out the sites. At the Cenacle in a Jewish synagogue, Gonda questioned the seating arrangement of Jesus and the apostles in Da Vinci's "Last Supper."

Quoting biblical passages, he said Jesus would in all likelihood not be sitting in the middle but would be the second or third person on one side of the table. Judas would be next to Him, driving Peter to complain.

Reclining

Furthermore, Gonda said, Jesus would be reclining, supporting His head with one hand and helping Himself to the bread with the other.

The exciting part of our visit began near the Jaffa Gate not far from the famous Wailing (or Western) Wall.

But our hurried and nervous pace allowed little time for picture-taking.

Indeed, the Arab-owned shops along the narrow but picturesque Via Dolorosa were shuttered. The protest and mourning over the loss of Yassin, whom the Israelis labeled a Palestinian Bin Laden, had begun.

It was impossible to cover completely the traditional route along which Jesus carried His cross. Even the guide book says the Stations of the Cross may not be exactly in the places where the cited incidents happened.

First stations

The first seven Stations are in the Muslim Quarter, the eighth and ninth on the border between the Christian Quarter and the Muslim Quarter, and the final five within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

A small "V" at the junction of Tariqal-Wad and Tariqal-Saray marks the fifth Station, which I visited. Biblical accounts say Jesus fell here on His way to Golgotha, and Simon of Cyrene was ordered to carry the cross.

The Roman numeral VI is on the door of the Church of the Holy Face and St. Veronica, which serves as the sixth Station.

Jesus' second fall is commemorated in the seventh Station. This is also the Porta Judicaria where, legend says, the death decree was posted.

The door was open on the day of our visit. I slipped inside and saw there a huge painting depicting the fall.

The 10th and 11th Stations are in the Latin Chapel inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

I entered the church from the courtyard and climbed the steps to the right to get to the rock on which Jesus and the two thieves were crucified. According to the guide, the mosaics here are of fairly recent vintage, except for one (circa 12th century) depicting the Ascension.

The dimly lit but richly decorated Greek Chapel marks the 12th Station. A crucified Jesus is flanked by the Virgin Mary and Mary Magdalene.

Golgotha

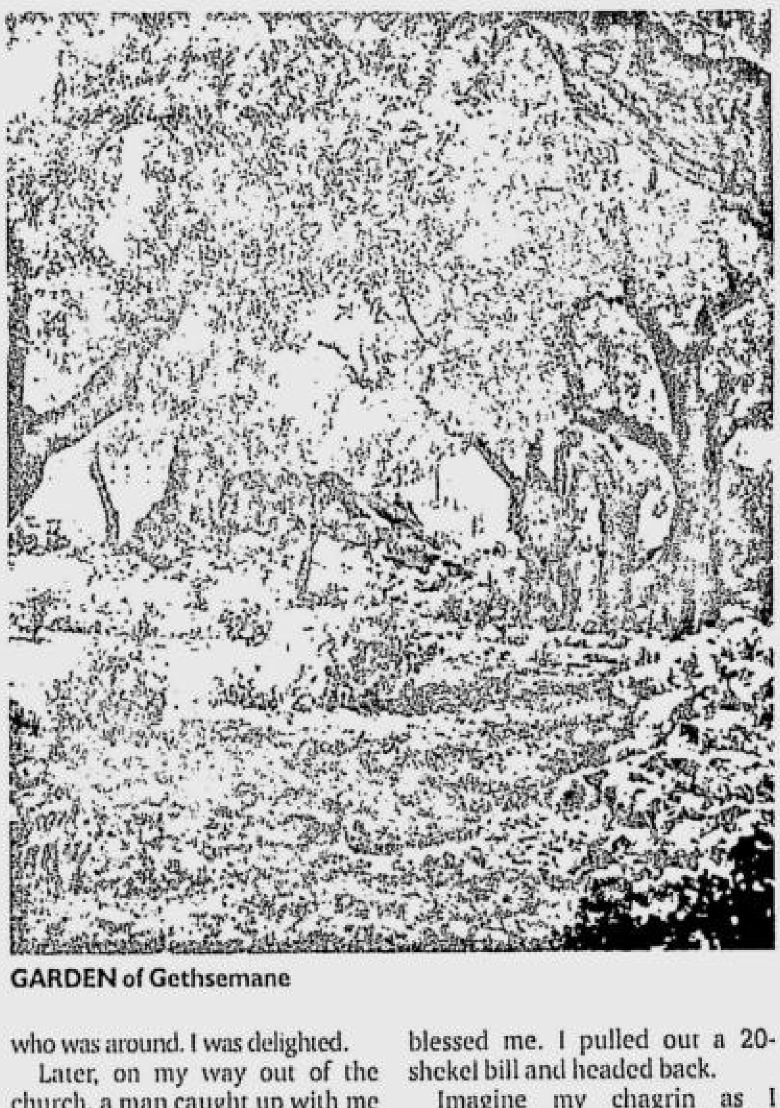
Below the Greek altar is a small opening. I reached down to touch the rock surface of Golgotha.

The small Latin Stabat Mater altar honoring Our Lady of Sorrows is between the Latin and Greek Chapels. This is the 13th Station, where Mary received her Son's body.

Stairs lead down to the Stone of Unction marking the anointing of Jesus' body by Nicodemus prior to the burial. The present slab of limestone is said to date back to 1810, but worshippers did not hesitate to touch and even kiss it. (The 12th-century slab was destroyed in a fire in 1808.)

The Tomb of Christ, the 14th Station, consists of the small Chapel of Angels (3.4 by 3 meters) and the tinier Chapel of the Holy Sepulcher (2 by 1.8 meters). I queued and literally stooped to enter the second chapel to pray.

On my second visit to the holy site two days later, Zvi Harpaz (a more considerate tour guide compared to the first who even challenged my Christian beliefs) asked if I wanted a blessing from the Franciscan monk who was around. I was delighted.



GARDEN of Gethsemane

Later, on my way out of the church, a man caught up with me and asked if I would like to make a donation to the priest who had blessed me. I pulled out a 20-shekel bill and headed back.

Imagine my chagrin as I watched him slip out through the nearest exit and disappear.

GMA 'walking billboards' costing gov't P30M a day, says Enrile

By Carlito Pablo

THE GOVERNMENT is spending at least P30 million a day to pay for the ubiquitous street sweepers clad in blue long-sleeved shirts bearing the initials of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to opposition senatorial candidate Juan Ponce Enrile, these "walking billboards" would cost taxpayers close to P3 billion for the entire duration of the 90-day election campaign period.

At six sweepers per kilometer of the 31,000 kms of national roads in the entire country, there are 180,000 of these sweepers employed to "model GMA's campaign T-shirt," Enrile said in a statement.

Car registration fees

He said the street sweepers are paid P180 per day from the start of the campaign period on Feb. 10.

"They have been hired by GMA as some sort of early warning device to motorists that they are entering a campaign zone," Enrile said.

The street sweepers' pay comes from car registration fee collections, officially known as the motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC) .

Enrile pointed out that the MVUC was meant by law to be used in the repair of roads and "not the removal of trash."

Enrile estimated that from 2001 to 2003, MVUC collections totaled P16.2 billion.

"On our roads we can see the evidence that the Macapagal campaign, for all its crassness, has reached the gutter level," said the former defense minister in the Marcos regime.

Barangay chairmen, too

Enrile said that aside from the P3 billion payroll for the street sweepers, the government is also shelling out P60 million for the allowances of 40,000 barangay chairmen in charge of these temporary employees.

Under the set-up, each barangay chair is paid P500 a month, he said.

In addition to these, the Department of Public Works and Highways has also bought "tens of millions of pesos worth of brooms, bolos and shovels" for the clean-up work, Enrile said.

"Thus the total bill for the walking billboard campaign of the President is in the neighborhood of P3.2 billion," he said.

Enrile said the law provides that the MVUC should be deposited in a trust account but it appears that it is being used by the Macapagal administration for "political stunts."

GMA denial

The President, however, had dismissed accusations that she was using public funds for election purposes.

In a statement on March 31, the President said: "In the first place, I am not using public funds for campaigning. Secondly, I shall not allow the opposition to stop me from serving the people.

"The opposition wants me to stop delivering clean water, to stop me from building shelters for the people and constructing classrooms in the barangays, and maintaining the roads," she had said, adding that she would rather go to jail than stop serving the people.

Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that public funds were being used properly.

"They are used for projects that are needed by the people," Bunye said. He said programs such as health, education, clean water and maintenance of roads were vital to the nation.

"All of these are part of the governance that must be carried out even during the election period," he said.

With Juliet Labog-Javellana

Loren: Asking Sandra to apologize wrong

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Vice presidential candidate Sen. Loren Legarda has admitted that she was wrong when she chastised a television reporter for refusing to apologize to Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. over a "mike-thrusting" incident last week.

Recalling her own career as a broadcast journalist, Legarda said she had actually been much more aggressive at her peak, and would probably have ruffled even bigger feathers than Poe's.

"*Noong ako'y* reporter, *mas malikot pa ako doon* (When I was a reporter, I was even more aggressive)," she told reporters at a press conference here on Tuesday.

Legarda said she often broke protocol by covering closed-door sessions of the Cabinet precisely because it was her "duty" to pursue a story.

Reflecting on her career, Legarda said she apologized to Sandra Aguinaldo, the GMA-7 field reporter covering the KNP campaign, after news cameras caught her first trying to convince Aguinaldo to apologize to Poe.

Aguinaldo shed tears after Poe broke up her live spiel on the campaign stage in Tagbauan, Iloilo, last week.

Aguinaldo was standing a few meters behind Poe and was about to do a stand-upper when the apparently peeved actor shoved his microphone at her and asked her if she wanted to speak instead.

"It was a misjudgment on my part," Legarda said when reporters here asked her about the incident.

"*Una, tapos na iyon, no, at nagkaliwanagan na* (Firstly, it's over, and everything's been cleared up). I think that there was probably miscommunication... FPJ was bothered by the light (from the camera)," she said.

Legarda said she had urged Aguinaldo to apologize to Poe upon the prodding of Sen. Vicente Sotto III, KNP spokesperson.

Upon realizing the media backlash the incident had created, Legarda said her platform now includes plans to pursue a pending Senate measure that decriminalizes the crime of libel.

SMC acquires Thai brewery for $102M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is acquiring the assets of Thai beer maker Thai Amarit Brewery Ltd. The move is expected to accelerate SMC's entry into the lucrative Thai beer market.

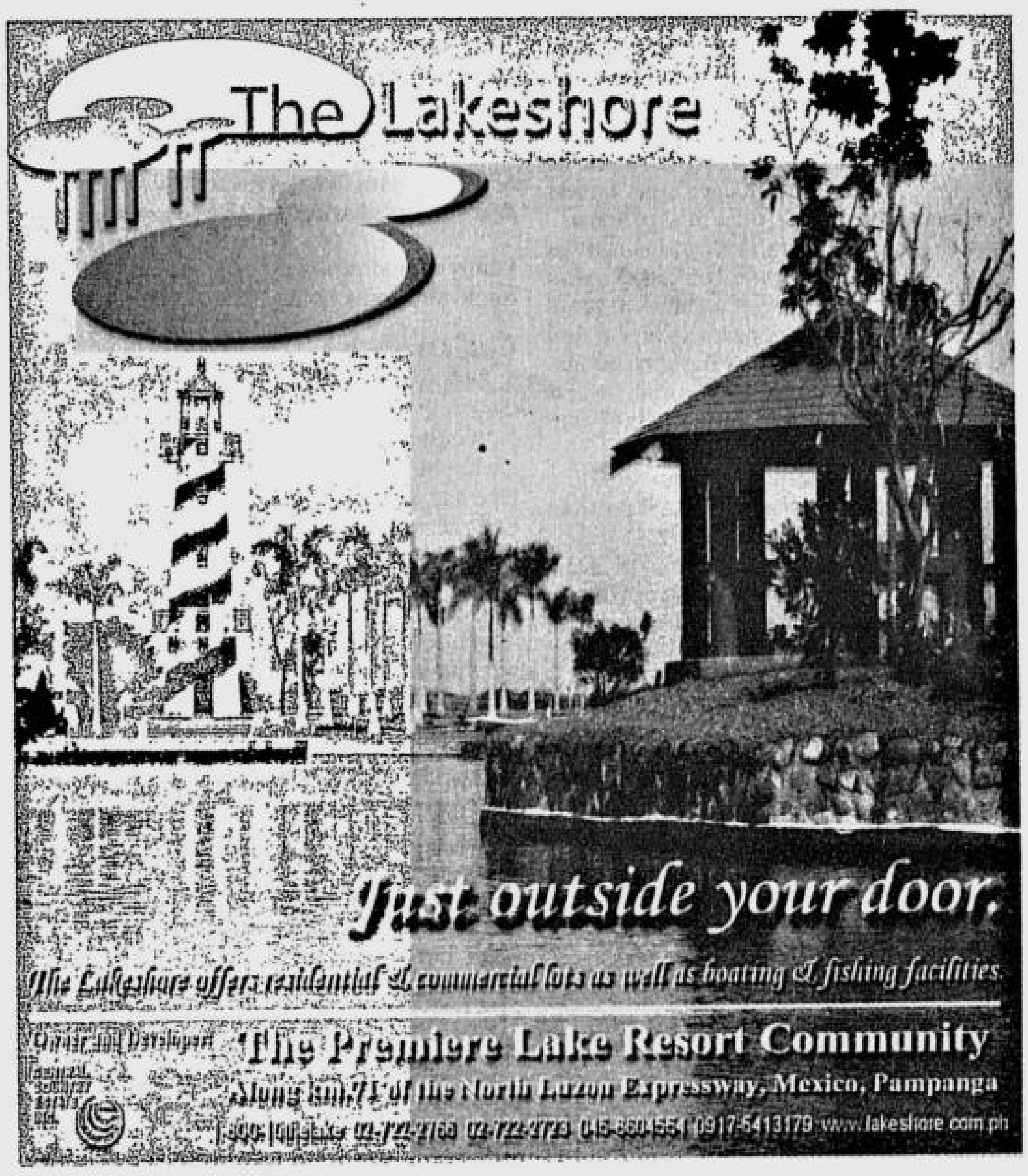
Key SMC officials and their counterparts in the Thai company were scheduled to sign yesterday in Bangkok the definitive sales and purchase agreement for the asset acquisition. Closing of the deal is expected within the next 30 days.

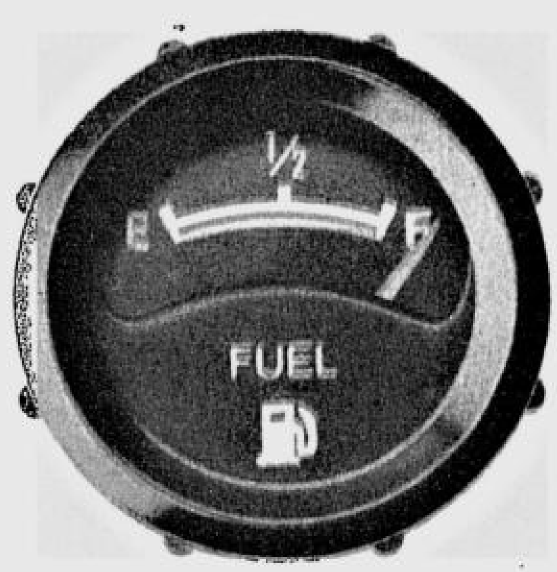
SMC acquired Thai Amarit's assets for $102 million. The assets include a brewery on a 21.75-hectare property in Pathum Thani province in Central Thailand, some 30 kilometers north of Bangkok. The brewery has a capacity of about one million hectoliters.

The Pathum Thani site has around 11 hectares of vacant land that can be used for future expansion. Also included in the deal is Thai Amarit's 2.4-hectare property in Bang Po area in Metro Bangkok, which has an existing port facility that gives the area access to the Chao Phraya River.

The brewery will allow the entry of SMC's own beer brands into Thailand, the fastest growing and largest beer market in Southeast Asia. It likewise offers potential synergy with SMC's other projects in Thailand and in the region, SMC said in a statement.

San Miguel (Thailand) Co. Ltd., the newly formed venture of SMC in Thailand's Rayong industrial estate, will engage in the manufacture and distribution of SMC products such as beverages, processed food and snacks, as well as feeds.


The Lakeshore
Just outside your door.
The Lakeshore offers residential & commercial lots as well as boating & fishing facilities.
Owner and Developer
The Premiere Lake Resort Community
Along km. 71 of the North Luzon Expressway, Mexico, Pampanga
[illegible] 02-724-2768 02-722-3723 045-860-1551 0917-5413179 www.lakeshore.com.ph



LAKBAY | ALALAY

A STATION IN EVERY DIRECTION.

Wherever you're headed this Holy Week, Petron has got you covered. In addition to our stations along the major travel routes, we've set up Lakbay Alalay camp sites along the North and South Expressways and the STAR Tollway from April 7 to 11, 2004. So whether you need medical assistance, towing services, basic car parts, fuels and lubricants, drinking water, clean restrooms or phones for emergency calls, we'll be there for you. After all, we've been part of your trip for 18 years.

PETRON LAKBAY ALALAY 2004
Your friend on the Road

For more details on Lakbay Alalay 2004 and expressway traffic updates, visit www.lakbayalalay.com or text LAKBAY to 2600 for Smart/Talk N' Text/Addict Mobile subscribers or 2363 for Globe/Touch Mobile subscribers.

Petron-McDonald's Drive-Thru Promo. For every P100 fuel purchase at Petron stations nationwide, get a McDonald's discount coupon worth P15.00 off on a Big Mac, Quarter Pounder or 2-pc Chicken McDo w/ rice at the nearest McDonald's drive thru outlet. From March 15 to April 15, 2004 only. Coupons are valid until June 15, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1042 Series of 2004.

GET TREATS FROM PETRON TREATS IN ALL PETRON EXPRESS CENTERS ALONG THE NORTH & SOUTH LUZON TOLLWAYS

Petron Lakbay Alalay is a registered trademark of Petron Corporation

Those who've nothing …

poor of the Lord."

Anawim's residents came from different walks of life and circumstances. Each one of them has a special life story to tell. Somewhere, sometime, at a certain point in their lives, they had reached a dead end. For most of them, there was no one and nothing left except a last painful stretch of a life that had yet to be spent. To whom shall they go?

Opening doors

Marisa Chikiamco, lay missionary and Anawim center directress, narrates how in 1992 the Light of Jesus Community acquired the property sitting on hilly terrain. Sanchez, the 30-ish founder, simply stated the center's vision: "Anawim will open its doors to whoever God will send."

In 1996, a wandering old man found his way to Anawim's door. Lolo Beteng, a farmer from Montalban, was abandoned by his daughter and had nowhere to go. Dressed in dirty clothes, he walked for hours until he found himself at Anawim's gate. Could he come in, he asked. He was received with open arms, he was given food and drink and, most of all, a home.

Since then, Anawim has welcomed as many as were qualified and could be accommodated. The center relies mainly on donations and pledges, Chikiamco explained, and God's providence. The center has nine bungalows that serve as dormitories, and several neat bamboo-and-nipa cottages that are home for special cases, like the severely ill or those with communicable ailments. Winding pathways on the hilly terrain make it possible for stronger residents to walk about.

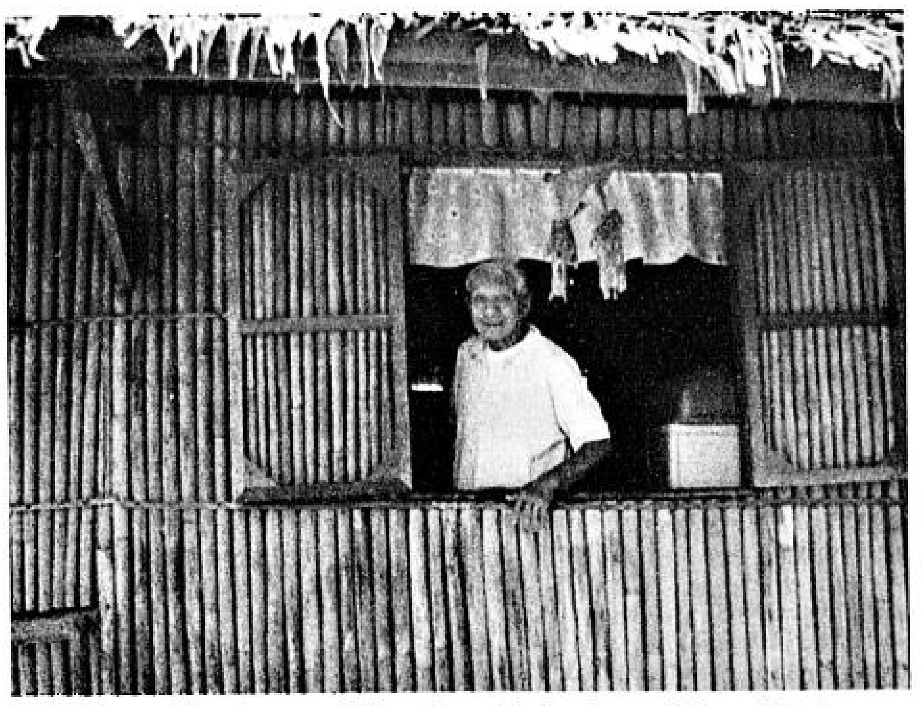
The able-bodied come together for meals and, three times a day, for common prayers.

At the center of the compound is a chapel that is open on all sides so that the wind could blow from all directions and one could have a view of the eternal hills beyond, so to speak. A wealthy classmate of Chikiamco donated the money for the chapel and several structures.

Efforts have been made to grow vegetables but there was little success because of the nature of the soil. But a big fishpond is now home to tilapia fingerlings, courtesy of the Bureau of fisheries, and a portion has successfully yielded glutinous rice.

Cottages have fancy names like House of Love, House of Faith, House of Humility, etc. Elderly women live separately from the men. One cottage beside the fishpond is home to a sprightly 92-year-old and his wife who has cancer, and a son who has come to visit. They are a special case.

Anawim has also seen reconciliations and family reunions, cases of the lost being found and going home again.


SPECIAL cases like the severely ill are housed in bamboo and nipa cottages. Anawim has nine other bungalows used as dormitories.

God's miracles

But just as interesting as the residents of Anawim are the missionaries/volunteers themselves. Chikiamco, a math major from St. Scholastica's College and a former Good Shepherd nun, had herself experienced God's wondrous miracles. She had been healed of a lingering ailment and, later, of a life-threatening illness, without medical intervention. God's way of leading her to her mission in the community, she said. Before that she was living a comfortable life, traveled extensively and worked here and abroad.

With doctors as parents (her father was former director of the Philippine General Hospital) Chikiamco was no stranger to the poor and the sick. But, she said, it is the charism of the Religious of the Good Shepherd where she spent six years that she continues to carry to this day. And that is the charism of upholding every person's worth, of searching for the lost.

Chikiamco has been known to care for the severely ill, among them, a classmate with terminal breast cancer who had fallen on hard times and had no one. Then one day, while on the way to the center, Chikiamco saw a sick woman lying on a bench outside her house. Chikiamco stopped by and found out that the woman was suffering from cervical cancer. Her husband had put her outside the house because she emitted a foul odor.

Three months to live

Chikiamco cleaned her up, bought disinfectant and scrubbed a corner of the hovel. She showed the family how to care for the sick. She even left money to the woman's neighbor and asked if she could give the sick woman a cup of food every time she cooked. The woman was not admitted to Anawim but Chikiamco and her lay community came to visit often. Eventually the woman's husband and children cared for her joyfully.

"She was given three months to live," Chikiamco recalled, "but because of the love she experienced, she lived for a year more. We were all there, praying, when she died."

Chikiamco does not live in the center but she comes often. She also does work at the Light of Jesus Community office at 56 Chicago St. Quezon City (Tel. No. 725-8564).

House mother

Trinidad "Tita Neneng" Mangahas, the center's house mother, is also a member of the Light of Jesus Community. Sprightly at 78, Mangahas has a house of her own nearby but she has chosen to live in the center in order to minister to Anawim's residents. Mangahas used to run the canteen at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. For her, feeding scores of Anawim residents and staff is a joy.

OJT

Mangahas knows each resident by name, even their life histories. No dull day for her. Bickering among the elderly is not unusual, she noted. When something erupts, the "troublemakers" from different bungalows or cottages are plucked out and temporarily transferred to the House of Love in order to cool off. "We secretly call it the House of War," Chikiamco laughed.

On-the-job training

Chikiamco and Mangahas do not receive salaries.

Anawim has almost 30 people on its staff composed of an executive director, a social worker, caregivers, cooks, office workers, etc. Some are members of the lay community, the others are either paid personnel or volunteers. Schools for caregiving send their students to Anawim for their required on-the-job-training (OJT).

"Here we get to do the actual work," one OJT caregiver said. "This prepares us for work abroad. At the training school, we only get lectures and demos on mannequins."

Not everybody is bedridden, dying or needs to be bathed or spoon-fed. A good number are ambulatory and could even do chores to while their hours away.

Homesick

Ricardo Ponce, 79, was a master cutter at the Portillo car upholstery. At Anawim, he gives new life to mattresses that have seen better days. He is still strong but he has nowhere to go. His wife and children, he lamented, do not want him. He quoted his son, rather well known in their town in Bulacan, as telling him, "When we needed you, you were not there. Now you want to be with us but we do not need you." He stated the reason why he became his family's odd man out.

Aging and with nowhere to go, Ponce was referred to Anawim by a concerned individual. "I am very homesick," Ponce said.

JOSE Jobahib, 80, with his 49-year-old retarded daughter Judith, also a resident of Anawim, wanted to end it all for both of them by jumping off a bridge.

UP professor

UP Professor Fred Sevilla, now wheelchair-bound in Anawim, authored the 644-page book "Poet of the People Francisco Balagtas and the Roots of Filipino Nationalism" published in time for the 1998 centennial of Philippine independence. On its cover is a detail of a swirling mural by National Artist Carlos "Botong" Francisco depicting Balagtas at work. Sevilla's opus is about the life and times of the great Filipino poet and his legacy of literary excellence and political activism. Its foreword was by the late Sen. Blas Ople and its introduction was by UP professor Romeo Dizon.

Sevilla's book is huge in size and content, with photos and illustrations on every other page. (The hard-bound is P1,750 at Goodwill. It is also in newsprint.) Only a devoted scholar could have done this.

In his intro, Dizon said that "Balagtas must be replucked from the thick abstruseness of prevailing scholarship and hortatory ritualism." Sevilla had attempted to do this.

Sevilla's interest in Philippine culture and history was developed when he worked with renowned anthropologist H. Otley Beyer as staff at the UP Museum and Institute of Atrcheaology and Ethnology.

From his wheelchair Sevilla could only attempt to let out a few words. The rest are slow-moving tears.

Something else brought Lily (not her real name), 71, to Anawim. With her sound economic, academic and even religious background, 28 years of blissful relationship with someone she loved much and who loved her in return-though they were not of the same social status and theirs was not a licit one by conventional standards—how could life surprise her in this way?

'Lily'

Lily looks at it now in the light of her new-found home in Anawim. She belongs here, she said with certainty and broke down in tears when told in jest that she did not belong in Anawim, given her background. Strong and articulate, Lily could very well have a thriving career-again. But no, she said, everything happened for a purpose.

Lily came to Anawim six months ago. "The people here are kind," she said. "I have never heard any hurting words from anyone. Here I can feel the strong presence of God." Here she will serve, here she will die.

Some were so poor, they came with only the dirty clothes on their back. Others were poor in a different way—they had no one, or had been stripped of their possessions and their memories, then abandoned, disowned, thrown away.

In Anawim, God's poor come in different packages. Anawim is home. For some, it is their first ever, and for most, if not all, maybe their last."

Pinay . . .

From page A1

In 1997, two Fil-Americans, Byron Acohido and Alex Tizon, both writers of the Seattle Times, won the Pulitzer. Acohido won it for beat reporting and Tizon for investigative reporting along with Eric Nalder and Deborah Nelson.

The gutsy Cheryl had been embedded with the US Marines' 2nd Tank Battalion while her colleague David Leeson joined the US Army's 3rd Infantry Division to cover the US invasion of Iraq for their paper.

The award committee cited her touching picture of American soldiers saving a wounded civilian, and gave her journalism's highest honor in the breaking news photography category, plus $10,000 that she would share with Leeson.

Cheryl, who was also the recipient of the John Faber Award from the Overseas Press Club, has worked as senior staff photographer for the Dallas Morning News since 2002, travelling to different war zones at great risk to record remarkable photographs of people caught in conflicts not of their own making.

Afghanistan

In 2001, she was in Afghanistan to document resistance to terrorism under the notorious Taliban regime. A team project brought her to Guatemala where she captured on film a country trying to rebuild itself after 36 years of civil war.

Two years ago, Cheryl was back in her native country, and in Indonesia, and left with vivid photographs depicting the simmering strife between Christian and Muslim communities locked in religious enmity.

After her family moved to the United States from the Philippines, Cheryl enrolled at the University of Minnesota, graduating cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree (major in German) in 1990. Later, she took up a journalism course at the Western Kentucky University.

From The Washington Post where she worked as a photo intern, the enterprising Cheryl moved to the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

She won her first award in 1999 as Minnesota's Photographer of the Year.

Before cheering colleagues gathered in the newsroom after they heard the good news, Dallas Morning News president and editor Robert Mong Jr. praised Cheryl and David for their sense of professionalism.

"They risked their lives and they never lost their professionalism," said Mong. "They never lost their sense of what a journalist has to do in that kind of horrific environment.

"They also maintained the highest levels of journalism, but they also had the instincts of artists and the eyes of artists through these photographs," he added.

The 119-year-old Dallas Morning News itself is a Pulitzer "veteran," having won seven awards in different categories, including investigative and international reporting.

The awards are given for outstanding work in journalism, the arts and letters, but only for US-based newspapers or daily news organizations.

The Pulitzer Prize was set up by Joseph Pulitzer, a Hungarian-American publisher in 1917.

Trillanes home for baby's wake

From page A1

Makati Regional Trial Court to leave the Isafp compound in Camp Aguinaldo and was now in a military camp in Baguio. The lawyer said they had filed the required papers before the court with the conformity of the Department of Justice.

Pimentel is hearing the coup d'etat charges against Trillanes and 31 other Magdalo leaders.

Pulido said Trillanes' third child, Allan Andrew, died at around 6:30 a.m. Tuesday due to complications arising from his birth last March 16.

The mother, Capt. Arlene Orejana-Trillanes, had carried the baby to full term.

This was not the first time Trillanes was allowed by the court to attend to the delicate family matter.

According to Pulido, Trillanes first sought permission to visit his wife and son on the day of the baby's birth, when both mother and child were transferred to the intensive care unit of the Baguio hospital where they were confined.

Pimentel granted Trillanes leave—from March 16 to 19.

Trillanes subsequently recovered, but the child remained under intensive care.

When the baby's condition deteriorated, Trillanes again asked the court's permission to visit. Leave was again granted—from April 3 to 6.

On the day the child died, Trillanes' lawyers sought an extension of the leave granted him. Pimentel immediately approved the request during a hearing.

Pulido said Trillanes was escorted by Isafp personnel during these leaves.

"At present, he [Trillanes] remains in the custody of the Isafp inside a military camp in Baguio City," Pulido said, adding that he could not reveal the officer's exact location.

The military has two camps in Baguio: one is Fort Del Pilar, the training ground of the Philippine Military Academy, and the other is Camp Allen, a military rest-and-recreation facility that is being maintained by the PMA.

Pulido also said another Magdalo leader, Marine Capt. Gary Alejano, was likewise allowed to visit his wife when she delivered their first child about two months ago.

Retreat too short for Erap

From page A1

This seems to be the reasoning of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada who, far from thanking the anti-graft court for its generosity, called the justices "mean" for limiting his furlough to the three mournful days of Holy Week.

"They scrimped on the dates. They gave me the sad days but not the happy day," Estrada said in Filipino in a telephone interview yesterday.

Estrada had asked for a six-day retreat to end on Easter Sunday, but the court granted him only three days—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Black Saturday.

"They are so mean," said Estrada, who was looking forward to a celebratory get-together with his relatives in the 15-hectare, newly renovated estate which boasts of a swimming pool and a private chapel.

Still, he said, he would use the three days of temporary freedom to have a meaningful retreat under Fr. Larry Paraon, who used to officiate at Masses in Malacañang when Estrada was in power.

He said he will be joined by his son Jinggoy, his brothers and sisters, and other members of the Estrada and Ejercito clan.

Earlier, special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, who did not protest too much over the court's decision to grant Estrada's request for leave, said he hoped Estrada would really spend the time reflecting on the sufferings of Christ and communicating with God.

Protesting private prosecutors

But private prosecutors in the plunder and graft case against Estrada were not buying the ousted leader's supposed yearning for spirituality.

"While many children in this country live in the dirt, in canals, in railroad tracks, [President Macapagal-Arroyo], Erap and the Sandiganbayan consider not having a toilet that flushes the worst form of suffering that they would release Estrada to his Tanay villa for three days so his toilet can be fixed," said Marichu Lambino of the Public Interest Law Center.

Defense lawyers earlier asked the court to allow Estrada to temporarily stay at his vacation estate across from Camp Capinpin where he is detained, claiming that the lack of running water in the camp had disabled the flushing mechanism of Estrada's toilet, which also made it difficult for the disgraced leader to shower comfortably.

Like Pharisees

Lambino said that while Ms Macapagal and the Sandiganbayan were preaching morality, "plunder and robbing our country blind are considered privileges available to their kind for being in power."

She likened them to the Pharisees who persecuted Christ and who "continue to inflict thorns, bile and poison on our countrymen."

"The plunder trial is a farce. It's obvious the court is just playing games," said Carol P. Araullo, convenor of the Plunder Watch civil society group.

GMA hails decision

The President yesterday hailed the Sandiganbayan decision allowing Estrada to go on retreat at his vacation estate for the next three days, saying it reflected the true meaning of the Lenten season.

Estrada was careful to make the proper representations with the court this time after it was discovered last month that he had been staying at his villa without the permission of the Sandiganbayan.

A criminal case was filed against the President for allegedly allowing the unusual arrangement.

Ms Macapagal justified the arrangement as part of her policy of "humane treatment and compassion" for her predecessor.

She said this was out of respect for the many poor Filipinos who sympathized with Estrada and saw his alleged suffering as a reflection of their own oppression. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Fake gold bars seized

NAVAL intelligence operatives the other day seized fake gold bars and explosives in separate operations in Northern Luzon.

Elements of the Navy Intelligence Security Group-Northern Luzon (NISG-NL) recovered 56 fake gold bars which, if real, would have been worth P2.7 billion from three suspects in an entrapment operation in Agoo, La Union.

The suspects—Victorino Bonte, Ernesto Ramara and Nestor Flores—had been led to believe there was going to be a transaction involving the gold bars when they were arrested outside the Metrobank Agoo branch.

In another operation, the NISG-NL intercepted a shipment of explosive materials in Barangay Ligaya, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, also the other day. *Alcuin Papa*

Men are poorer drivers —WHO

A STUDY by the World Health Organization showed that in all countries men of any age were more prone to suffer injuries and were three times more likely to be killed in road accidents than women.

This is because men are more reckless on the road than women, whether as drivers or pedestrians. They are more likely to speed or drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The WHO raised road safety concerns as it marked World Health Day yesterday, which centered on the ways member governments could reduce the risk of road accidents in their territories.

WHO Director General Lee Jong-wook noted that 3,000 people all over the world die in road accidents everyday, which translates to 125 people dying every hour or two persons every minute.

Another 140,000 are injured on the road and around 15,000 are disabled for life, leaving a huge emotional and financial burden on their families.

"Since situations like these have become a growing concern, especially in developing countries like ours, the government is set to implement road safety activities," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit had said in an earlier statement.

The WHO said that road accidents, which in 1990 were the ninth leading cause of death or injury in the world, would shoot up to become the third leading cause of death or injury by 2020, higher than war, respiratory infections and even tuberculosis.

Blanche S. Rivera

BSP warns banks passing out old dirty bills

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANKS that still circulate old and dirty bills or refuse clients' requests to exchange them for crisp freshly printed bank notes, beware.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura the other day urged the public to report to the BSP's cash department those banks that were still issuing dirty notes or not entertaining their requests for new bills.

The "Clean Note Drive" goes hand in hand with the BSP's campaign against counterfeiters of Philippine bank notes, as fake money is harder to detect when the bills are soiled or dirty.

"For as long as dirty and faded bank notes circulate, there is a chance that some people would fall victim to counterfeiters," said Buenaventura during the launch of the anti-counterfeit program yesterday.

"We are therefore requesting the public and the banks to stop circulating dirty money," he said.

Lazy managers

He lamented that some bank managers were "too lazy" to exchange old bank notes for new at the BSP.

Under a memorandum of agreement with the BSP, banks are committed to replace unfit or dirty money surrendered by the public with clean peso notes. In turn, unfit or soiled money received by the banks from the public are exchanged for fresh notes at the BSP.

Among the signatories to the memorandum of agreement were commercial banks belonging to the Bankers Association of the Philippines and members of the Chamber of Thrift Banks and the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines.

Last year, the BSP replaced nearly one-third of the 1.45-billion pieces of bank notes currently in circulation, equivalent to 541 million new bills.

The BSP is currently stepping up its campaign against counterfeiters, to the extent of raising the financial rewards for those who provide information leading to the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators.

While the circulation of fake money is not rampant, Buenaventura said the BSP had been receiving isolated reports of fake money being used in transactions.

"It is unfortunate that some of our people get victimized by unscrupulous counterfeiters. Our advice, therefore, is for the people to be aware of the security features incorporated into genuine bank notes so that they would be able to spot fake bills," Buenaventura said.

How to spot a fake

Among the characteristics of genuine Philippine currency are:

- It uses a special kind of paper that is rough to the touch and does not glow under ultra-violet light.
- There is a watermark or silhouette of the face appearing on the note, whose contours can be felt by the hand.
- Embedded red and blue visible fibers are scattered at random on both sides of a genuine note and could be readily picked off using any pointed instrument.

BSP officials said Philippine peso notes can easily be authenticated as they contain more security features than even the US dollar.

BSP agents have been working closely with other regulatory authorities such as the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General in its crackdown against fake peso notes.

Even dollars

Over the last two years, its efforts have led to the arrest of 58 suspects, the confiscation of 12 printing presses and the conviction of three counterfeiters.

The authorities have so far seized fake P100, P500 and P1,000 peso notes as well as counterfeit US dollars in $100 and $1,000 denominations.

Informants received rewards ranging from P20,000 to more than P300,000. The rewards were computed on a point system depending on factors such as denomination, volume and degree of deception, seizure of instruments and the arrest of the mastermind.

Those who have personal knowledge of the production or passing of counterfeit notes and would like to be eligible for a reward can contact the BSP cash department at tel. no. 523-9806.

As you look for some eggs, you may find a gold mine

Bring your family to

EASTER EGG HUNT

and avail of our special holiday offers!

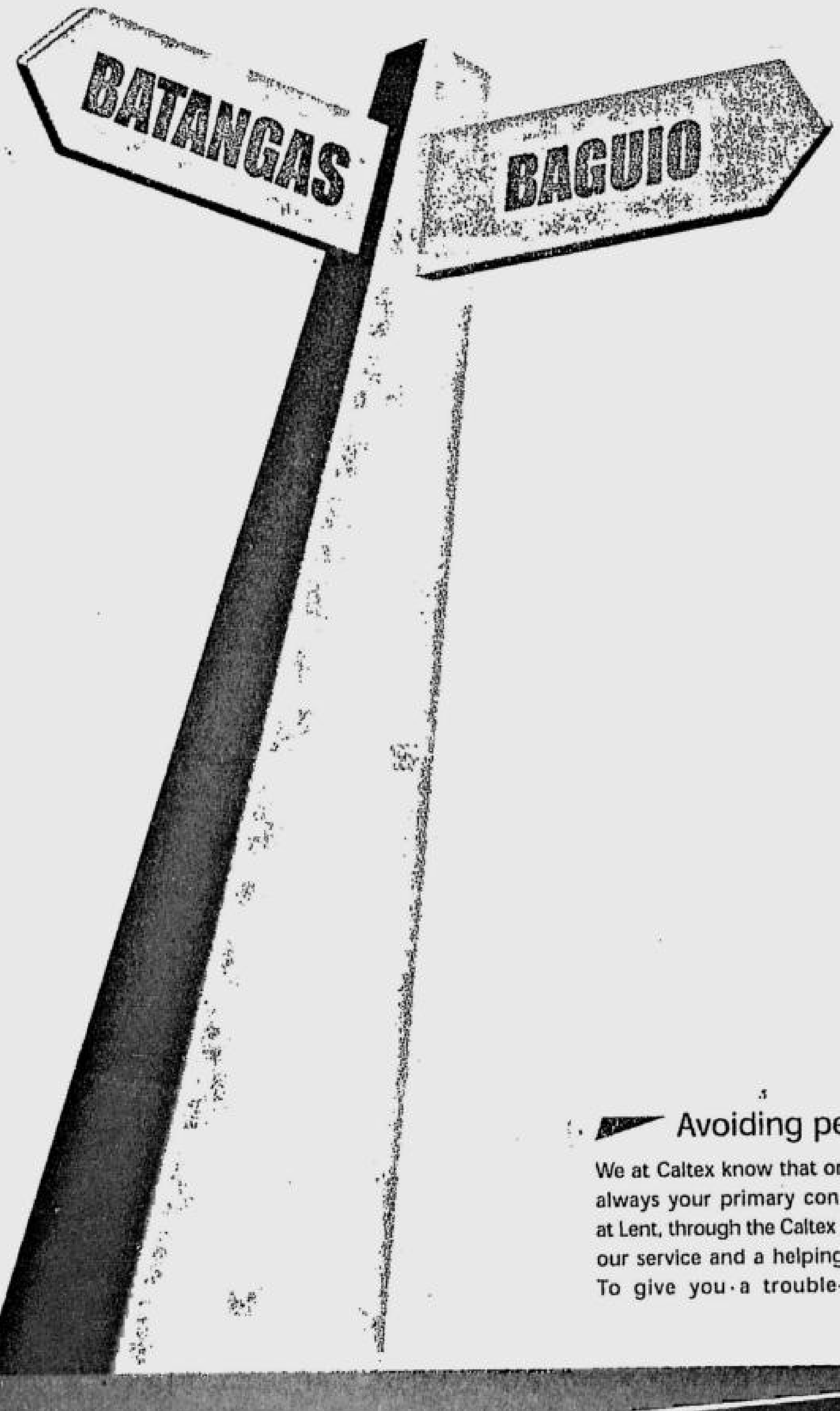
AltaMonte

The Height of Tagaytay Living.

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
EASTER SUNDAY
April 11, 2004

DON TIM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Don Tim Building, 5438 Pres. Osmeña Highway, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 843-9471 • 844-7743 • Telefax (632) 843-9471
www.dontim.com

What Drives You



Avoiding penance on the road

We at Caltex know that once you hit the road, safety is always your primary concern. That is why each year at Lent, through the Caltex Summer Samaritan, we extend our service and a helping hand to motorists like you. To give you a trouble-free trip this Holy Week.

What Drives You CALTEX

Pre-Departure Offerings*
(from March 29 to April 8, 2004)

- Free 22 point Preventive Maintenance Check
- Get 20% discount on Extended Life Coolant (1 Liter) and 10% discount on Brake & Clutch Fluid (250 ml.)

Holy Week Offerings*
(from April 7 to April 11, except April 9, Good Friday)

SERVICES:

- Car check from Toyota, Nissan, and Isuzu
- Battery check and service from Motolite Battery
- First aid assistance from Red Cross
- Roving motorist assistance from Metrowatch
- Towing assistance from 24 HEROES
- Clean restrooms

FREE GIVEAWAYS:

- Dole Pineapple Calcium
- Dole Pineapple Watermelon
- Refresh Mineral Water
- Great Taste RTD
- Pokka Drinks
- Red Bull Barako Coffee
- Kimy Bulilits
- Hershey's products
- Wrigley's Spearmint Jumbo
- Lemon Square goodies
- Frito Lays
- Growers Peanuts
- Act II Popcorn
- Saucy Mi
- Nooda Crunch
- Homi
- Carefree Feminine Wipes
- Colgate products

Brought to you by:

* Only at participating outlets
See flyers for details
Promo Period March 22 to April 4, 2004
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0649 Series of 2004

Antiterror alert still up

From page A1

number of security officers deployed in the embassies, but said it was enough to keep these buildings safe from possible terror attacks.

De Leon told the Inquirer that the NCRPO had also stepped up its CCW ("checkpoints, choke points, walk the beat") security program in the metropolis.

"We're doing all these to eliminate opportunities for terrorist activities. Even if the Abu Sayyaf cell in Metro Manila has been busted, there should be no letup in terms of security," he said.

On top of the regular security personnel deployed in the metropolis for the Holy Week, more policemen were visible yesterday in densely populated areas such as shopping malls and bus stations.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) operatives in full battle gear were also seen roaming major thoroughfares and side streets, riding tandem on motorcycles.

'Relentless' pursuit

The President noted that the terrorists had remained "adamant and persistent" in the face of the government's "relentless" pursuit.

"This is a universal fight for democracy and freedom. And no set of extremists shall hold hostage the democratic bond of nations," she said.

Ms Macapagal also said that in monitoring the activities of certain foreigners in the country, authorities would "respect diplomatic conventions" and "be circumspect in assessing our evidence."

"Once we have it, they will be arrested and brought to justice," she said, adding that justice would soon catch up with the terrorists as more and more witnesses in Basilan and Sulu had come out to point out the "evildoers."

A senior intelligence official had told the Inquirer that there was at least one Abu Sayyaf terrorist still hiding in Metro Manila. An alleged "support staff" of the busted cell, he is purportedly in possession of a substantial amount of TNT.

Earlier, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines issued a warning that some foreign terrorists had entered the country in the guise of Muslim missionaries.

The alleged pseudo-missionaries are believed to have engaged in terror-related activities such as conducting trainings in bomb-making in secret camps in Mindanao and facilitating the transfer of funds to terrorist cells in the country from financiers overseas.

Quicker response

Part of the security measures is a new system in which the PNP identifies police strongholds in certain areas, in which teams of policemen are strategically positioned.

"This will allow for quicker response in case of emergency," De Leon said.

Eight such posts are in Makati and at least six in Ortigas, he said.

From the list of strategic targets supposedly found in the wallet of Alhamser Manatad Limbong, alleged leader of the Abu Sayyaf's Metro Manila cell, Makati would have been hit the hardest had the bandits carried out their bombing plan.

Included in the alleged list were the Makati Cinema Square, The Landmark, Rustan's, SM malls, Glorietta, and embassies, some of which are located in Makati.

Ortigas is also under threat, based on the list. Among the alleged targets were the Philippine Stock Exchange and Robinson's malls.

De Leon said the NCRPO had also strengthened linkages with corporate and barangay security officers. "We all meet regularly to assess situations and implement solutions," he said.

A separate police task force was assigned to the oil depot in Pandacan, Manila, a common target of sabotage and terrorist attacks. The oil depot was also supposedly on the list of Limbong, alias Kosovo.

Arrest warrant

US Embassy spokesperson Ron Post said Washington had sent a "provisional arrest warrant [as] the first step in the extradition process" of Kosovo, who is believed to have beheaded American Guillermo Sobero during one of the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings in 2001.

But Post stressed that the Philippines had first crack and the request just put on record the US interest in prosecuting Kosovo.

Bunye said "perhaps they [the United States] would have to wait because we have first claim over these suspects.

"They must answer under our own laws," he said, adding that any intelligence obtained from the suspected Abu Sayyaf members would be shared with allies like the United States. *With an AFP report*

GMA taps Muslim cops vs terrorists

From page A1

extremists.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, had said the six arrested men were planning bomb attacks in Metro Manila on the scale of the train bombings in Madrid last month.

But critics in the opposition have charged that the crackdown on supposed terrorists was motivated by Ms Macapagal's wish to project an image of toughness against terrorists ahead of the May 10 elections.

Humane treatment

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye quoted the Muslim leaders as saying that "if there is guilt, then [the arrested men] must be prosecuted."

"All they are requesting is humane treatment while they are under detention," he said yesterday on radio.

Bunye said the formation of the Salaam Police was one of a string of measures designed to address complaints that the PNP was targeting the Muslim community in the anti-terror operations.

"The President explained that these operations were based on solid information," he said.

Bunye conceded that it would take time to form the Salaam Police, but said that in a determined move to improve relations, Ms Macapagal had appointed Deles to have direct contacts with the Muslim community.

"Should there be any problem and our brother Muslims would like to relay their concerns, they would have somebody to approach and that is Secretary Deles," he said.

He added that the Muslim leaders seemed happy with the measures. *Reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and AFP*

Yet another promise for Filipino war veterans

From page A1

following up with President Bush two proposed measures seeking to grant pensions to veterans living here in the Philippines," she said.

Franking privileges

Ms Macapagal also said she would ask the Philippine Congress to pass a law granting franking privileges, or the lifting of postal fees, to members of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

The President was the guest of honor at rites commemorating the 62nd anniversary of the capture by invading Japanese forces of the Bataan peninsula from its American and Filipino defenders on April 9, 1942.

She paid tribute to the fallen and surviving patriots of that battle.

"You are the light in the path we all are journeying now," she said in Filipino.

Joseph Mussomeli, charges d'affaires of the US Embassy, and Japanese charges d'affaires Akio Egawa also delivered speeches honoring the heroism of the "defenders of Bataan."

What remained of the combined US-Filipino forces defending Bataan endured the notorious Death March to the Camp O'Donnell concentration camp in Tarlac. An estimated 5,000 troops died in the three-day march and some 23,000 young American and Filipino soldiers perished in the weeks and months that followed the surrender.

Still fighting

About 30,000 surviving Filipino veterans are still fighting for the benefits promised them by the US government which the US Rescission Act of 1946 removed.

In December 2003, Bush signed a law giving Filipino veterans the same benefits as American veterans. But the new law only covered about 8,000 veterans residing in the US. The majority of 22,000 veterans who live in the Philippines got nothing.

All Philippine Presidents, including Ms Macapagal, had lobbied hard for full equity benefits to be granted to all Filipino veterans of World War II.

Defends record

Ms Macapagal defended her record in looking after the welfare of veterans. She said that her administration had allotted P40 billion for the 260,000 pensioners against only P31 billion by the previous administration.

The President said she increased the old-age pension for the veterans, gave educational benefits to 20,000 beneficiaries, burial assistance to 20,000 and hospitalization benefits to 4,000 beneficiaries.

She said more than 60 percent of 250,000 veterans have been receiving their pensions on time after the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office improved its remittance system. The list of veterans had been purged of more than 7,000 bogus beneficiaries, she added.

In his speech, Mussomeli paid tribute to the gallantry and sacrifice of Filipino and American soldiers who fought on April 9, 1942.

Not beyond reach

"Sixty-two years ago, Filipino and American soldiers surrendered here at Bataan. Even today more than six decades later, that reality seems almost incomprehensible," Mussomeli said.

The two allies thought they were "beyond the reach of our enemies and we were wrong.

"We learn from the dark days of Bataan that each human spirit transcends the unspeakable cruelty of war, that justice defeats tyranny and hope ultimately is justified even in the most desperate of situations provided we, like the defenders of Bataan, are willing to accept the sacrifices necessary to defend liberty," he said.

Mussomeli said the US, Japan and the Philippines are "no longer enemies but the closest friends (that) stand together as sovereign nations and the strongest of allies.

"And because of our memories of Bataan, we cannot walk away from our shared commitment to people everywhere who seek freedom and justice," he said.

'Enemy among us'

Egawa said Japan continues to "remember the tragedy of the war so that our generation and the generation to come would all the more uphold the dignity of human life."

He said the occasion was a time for Japan to renew vows of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Ms Macapagal could not let the opportunity pass to take a dig at her opponents.

She said the Filipinos' enemy was "not foreigners but ourselves.

"The enemy is not the stranger but fellow Filipinos who are looking only after self-interest and not concern for the country, personal progress and not the welfare of the majority," she said.

"Help me face this new threat and new danger to our environment. Help me in my fight for change," she said. *With a report from Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANILA
UM
SINCE 1913
546 DR. MARIANO V. DE LOS SANTOS SR. STREET
SAMPALOC, MANILA
Tel # 7355084 • 7355085 • 7355098 • 7355094
Fax # 7355089 • 5218773
Website: www.univman.edu.ph E-Mail: um@univman.edu.ph

SUMMER 2004 ENROLLMENT GOING ON
FOR THE DIFFERENT COLLEGES: GRADUATE SCHOOL, FOREIGN SERVICE, HOTEL AND RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT, ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CRIMINOLOGY, LIBERAL ARTS, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, ACCOUNTANCY AND HIGH SCHOOL
CLASSES START: APRIL 12, 2004

REGULAR PRE-BAR REVIEW 2004
REVIEW FEE: P 8,000 only
(Saturday & Sunday Classes Only)
April 24 to August 29, 2004

SUBJECTS	REVIEWERS
REMEDIAL LAW	: Justice Nicolas Lapeña, Jr. : Justice Ricardo Galvez : Judge Pedro Laggui : Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo : Dean Carlos Ortega : Dean Michael Moralde : Fiscal Danilo Formoso
CIVIL LAW	: Dean Eduardo Abella : Dean Michael Moralde : Dean Ernesto Pineda : Dean Augusto Aligada : Prof. Rolando A. P. Reyes
MERCANTILE LAW	: Justice Japar Dimaampao : Dean Eduardo Abella : Prof. Joe-Santos Bisquera
POLITICAL LAW	: Justice Oswaldo Agcaoile : Prof. Edwin Sandoval : Prof. Jacinto Jimenez
CRIMINAL LAW	: Justice Edilberto Sandoval : Justice Rodolfo Palattao : Judge Pedro Laggui : Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo : Dean Carlos Ortega : Fiscal Danilo Formoso
TAXATION LAW	: Justice Japar Dimaampao : Prof. Nicasio Cabaneiro : Prof. Joe-Santos Bisquera
LABOR LAW	: Asst. Sec. Oswald Lorenzo : Prof. Salvador Poquiz : Asst. Dean Manuel Quiambao
LEGAL ETHICS	: Justice Nicolas Lapeña Jr. : Dean Prudencio Valencia
PRIVATE INT'L LAW	: Justice Jorge Coquia : Dean Prudencio Valencia
PRACTICAL EXERCISES	: Dean Eduardo Abella
LAND TITLES & DEEDS	: Dir. Ramon Cassanova
BAR METHODS & TECHNIQUES	: Prof. Arleno Maneja

REVIEW COURSES:
CPA BOARD REVIEW
CRIMINOLOGY BOARD REVIEW
CIVIL ENGINEERING REFRESHER COURSE
TEACHERS' BOARD REVIEW (LET)

Campaign rhetoric gives way to Lenten reflection

From page A1

born-again evangelist, Bangon Pilipinas standard-bearer Eddie Villanueva yesterday urged Filipinos to reflect on their "shortcomings as a people" and repent for their failure to stand up for what is right, thus allowing the country to be mired in the evils of corruption.

Taking a respite from the campaign, Villanueva said the Holy Week break should be a good time to fast and pray that the May 10 elections will be clean and orderly because what transpires then could make or break the nation.

"I am confident that Holy Week will recharge the nation spiritually and make us ready to face the task at hand on May 10 when we elect our leaders," said Villanueva, the founder of the five-million strong Jesus is Lord Church Worldwide.

"I pray that we be given wisdom and courage to do what is good for the country and to never fear change, especially change for the better, change toward national righteousness and renewal," said Villanueva, who is running on a platform of national renewal and moral governance.

GMA's message

In her Lenten message, President Macapagal-Arroyo urged Filipinos to reflect on the sufferings of Christ and their relevance to the present.

"Let us think about what more we can do to obey His commandments and lessons. We also need to take up our own Cross. We should give concern to our fellow men and help our country," she said.

She said that as President she has dedicated herself to fighting for change in the lives of ordinary Filipinos.

"I have no other goal but to finish what I have started and put an end to poverty," she said.

FPJ foregoes trek

Actor Fernando Poe Jr., the main opposition candidate, is foregoing his annual Lenten devotion of going on a trek on foot to the pilgrimage town of Antipolo, whose church is dedicated to Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage.

"He does not want to disturb the solemnity of the Lenten season. He does not want to make a spectacle out of his religious devotion," said a close confidant of Poe.

For the past 20 years, Poe had joined close friends in walking up the hills of Antipolo, starting from Meralco Avenue in Mandaluyong City, which is near his Greenhills residence.

The confidant said the candidate will be staying mostly indoors for the duration of Holy Week.

Susan Roces, Poe's wife, will host the traditional *pabasa* (chanting of Christ's passion and death) at their residence starting at dawn of Maundy Thursday up to 3 p.m. of Good Friday.

"They have been hosting a *pabasa* for several years and very close friends would drop by," the confidant said.

It will not be solely spiritual reflection that will occupy Poe's time during Holy Week, the confidant said.

Consultation

"Perhaps even starting Friday, he'll be meeting with his close advisers for consultations," he said.

After hearing early morning Mass on Easter Sunday, Poe will have a "working lunch" with political allies as the campaign season resumes on Monday.

The confidant confirmed an earlier report that Poe will be boning up on a lot of governance issues during the Holy Week break.

Opposition sources earlier said that the public should expect a more articulate Poe when the campaign season resumes.

Poe has been hesitant in addressing concrete issues like the economy, content in parroting one-liners derived from his movie dialogue, pointing out that he had already laid out his platform of government for everyone to read.

"He will also take the break to relax from his rigorous campaign. He'll be needing all the rest he can get," the confidant said.

Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino is slated to go on a one-week campaign swing through Northern Luzon immediately after Easter.

Need for debate

The camp of candidate Ràul Roco said his rivals should find the time to reflect on the need for a presidential forum on issues during Holy Week.

Roco's opponents—Ms Macapagal, Poe and Sen. Panfilo Lacson—had ruled out any plans of joining the April 14 presidential debate sponsored by the Commission on Elections, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and ABC-5 television.

Jaime Galvez-Tan, Roco's campaign adviser, said he was disappointed with the three candidates who officially announced their intention not to participate last Tuesday.

But he said he remained hopeful they would change their minds after their Holy Week retreats.

"My plea to them is to reflect during Holy Week on the need to give the people a chance to know their platforms and make an informed choice," he said, noting that snubbing the forum would confirm the country's image of a "wavering democracy."

Surveys as obstacles

The camp of Lacson offered this Holy Wednesday "reflection" by their candidate and his top campaign strategists: the negative perception from election surveys was the biggest hurdle standing in the way of his presidential bid.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla yesterday said this perception brought about by survey results had been identified as the obstacle that needed to be addressed in the campaign's homestretch that begins for most candidates on Easter Monday.

"The perceptions brought about by the survey results have been identified as the weakness [of the campaign]," Remulla said in a telephone interview.

But Remulla said the campaign team had also noted the observations "on the ground" that the survey results did not reflect the public's response to Lacson's campaign.

Surveys have consistently placed Lacson fourth behind Ms Macapagal, Poe and Roco.

Lacson and his top strategists, including campaign manager Ronaldo Zamora and spokesperson Angelito Banayo, conducted a "strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats" assessment yesterday at the campaign headquarters in Makati.

Warning

In his campaign sorties, Villanueva had said that the country was on the verge of dying as a nation because of rampant corruption that he said buries Filipinos deeper in poverty every day.

He advised corrupt government officials to change their ways "before it is too late."

He also warned that those who were planning to commit massive cheating and fraud to drop their plans because an overwhelming number of Filipinos would work to make sure that "change will happen beginning on Election Day."

"Only faith in the Lord and the death of a leader's personal interests would revive this government ... resurrection is only possible in death—death to self and its evil desires," Villanueva said.

He reminded the people that the true message of Holy Week was the great love of Christ for His children, who are saved by Jesus' death on the cross.

Tan warned Ms Macapagal, Poe and Lacson of an electoral backlash if they deliberately missed the opportunity to present their platforms of government to the public with only a month to go before election day.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US death toll in Iraq fighting mounts

BAGHDAD—US marines lost at least 12 dead in their worst single toll in Iraq this year as occupation forces on Wednesday battled Shiite and Sunni opponents and US President George W. Bush vowed to crush those he called "thugs and killers." Another 54 Iraqis were reported killed in the past 24 hours in fighting which, since Sunday, has resulted in well over Iraqi 100 dead.

Most of the clashes have been between US-led troops and militiamen of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr, but at least 30 Sunni Iraqis have been killed in a separate US operation in Fallujah.

In a briefing in Baghdad on Wednesday, US Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt vowed to destroy Sadr's Mehdi Army which has been banned by the occupation authorities.

"We will attack to destroy the Mehdi Army," Kimmitt said, echoing the unmoving stance of Bush.

"We will not be shaken by the thugs and terrorists," Bush said in a speech earlier. "These killers don't have values ... We face tough action in Iraq but we will stay the course."

As the Arab League urged the United Nations to intervene immediately to stop the fighting, Bush prepared to hold a teleconference with members of his National Security Council as well as the head of US Central Command, Gen. John Abizaid, and the US administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer.

Bush then plans to talk by telephone Wednesday with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his main ally in Iraq.

The 12 US marines were killed and two dozen wounded on Tuesday when between 60 and 70 Iraqi insurgents armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons attacked them in a government palace in Ramadi, 80 km west of Baghdad.

The deaths were the most numerous in a single incident involving coalition troops this year since a US helicopter was downed near the flashpoint town of Fallujah, also in Al-Anbar, on Jan. 8, killing all nine aboard.

Ramadi is in the strife-wracked Sunni Triangle, not too far from Fallujah, where US forces were staging a separate operation to find those responsible for the killing of four US security contractors last week.

Thirty Iraqis were killed and 25 wounded during overnight clashes between insurgents and US marines in Fallujah as part of "Operation Vigilant Resolve," hospital sources and residents said Wednesday.

The operation involves two marine battalions based near this Sunni bastion of anti-US insurgency since the ouster of Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated regime a year ago.

More than 100 Iraqis have also been killed and hundreds wounded in the past three days as coalition troops tackle furious assaults by rebels loyal to Sadr.

Around 30 coalition troops, including the marines, have now been killed in the same time, military sources said, including a Salvadoran and a Ukrainian.

Four Iraqis were killed in a US air raid on Baghdad's Sadr City Shiite district overnight and three more died from wounds sustained in fighting a day earlier, a hospital director said Wednesday.

At least 64 people have been killed and 242 others wounded in Sadr City since the US Army launched an offensive to quell a revolt by the Mehdi Army on Sunday.

In the southern Shiite city of Karbala, five Iranians and three Iraqis were killed and 16 wounded during overnight clashes between US troops and Mehdi Army militiamen.

After a day of fierce fighting during which 15 Iraqis, among them three rebels, were killed, calm returned to the southern city of Nasiriyah on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Iraqi police moved into the northern sector of the city following an agreement with the Italian contingent, as Rome vowed its 3,000 soldiers in Iraq would not be driven out.

Under the deal, police have two days to gradually reassert control over the sector, including positions held by Sadr's militia, before handing it back to the Italian troops of the US-led coalition.

Police cars were patrolling the main arteries, with no sign of the Sadr militiamen.

The coalition revealed Monday that an arrest warrant was in force against Sadr, a member of a family of widely revered clerics, for the murder last April of a rival cleric days after Saddam Hussein's ouster.

Aides of the anti-coalition firebrand vowed that he would never be captured or surrender.

Hazem al-Araji, head of Sadr's office in Baghdad's Shiite neighborhood of Kadhimiya, told AFP Tuesday the cleric "has left Kufa and is now in a place near the holy shrine of Imam Ali in central Najaf." *AFP*

MARINES and Navy medics carry a wounded Marine to a waiting Humvee after he was shot in the leg during fighting in Fallujah, Iraq, April 6. Insurgents and rebellious Shiites mounted a string of attacks across Iraq's south and US Marines launched a major assault on the turbulent city of Fallujah on Tuesday. AP

Purported al-Qaida audiotape claims responsibility for dozens of attacks in Iraq

DUBAI—A man claiming to be a senior al-Qaida figure that the United States believes is operating in Iraq has released a tape calling for the country's Sunni Muslims to fight Shiites and claiming responsibility for high-profile attacks there.

The 33-minute audiotape appeared Tuesday on a website known as a clearinghouse for militant Islamic messages. The speaker introduced himself as Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian also known as Ahmed al-Khalayleh who is thought to be a close associate of Osama bin Laden. It was the first tape of any kind attributed to him to be made public.

The tape's authenticity could not be verified. A US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity in Washington, said experts are looking into it, but it was too early to judge its authenticity.

Middle East counterterrorism officials said they also were examining the tape. One of the officials who spoke to the Associated Press in Amman, Jordan, said preliminary indications from people familiar with al-Zarqawi's voice and the tone of the threat suggest it is his.

Terrorism experts say that even when such statements cannot be traced to al-Qaida, they serve the group's cause by inspiring sympathizers.

Al-Zarqawi's whereabouts are unknown, but the website on which the tape appeared had a transcript heading that said al-Zarqawi was in Iraq.

The tape appeared hours before a Jordanian court convicted al-Zarqawi in absentia and sentenced him to death for the 2002 killing of a US aid official in a terror conspiracy linked to al-Qaida. US officials have offered a US$10-million reward for his capture, saying he is trying to build a network of foreign militants in Iraq.

A statement circulating in Iraq and signed by anti-US groups last month claimed al-Zarqawi was killed,earlier by American bombs in northern Iraq. A senior US official denied the report of al-Zarqawi's death.

The speaker on the tape claimed responsibility for a March 17 car bombing of a Baghdad hotel that killed seven people. The reference to the car bombing was an indication the tape was made recently. *AP*

PROFILE OF A TERRORIST

French trial links Madrid and Casablanca bombings

LONDON/PARIS—In 1997 David Courtailler, a Frenchman trying to kick a drug habit in the British seaside town of Brighton, found the answer to his personal demons in the teachings of Islam.

He converted at the local mosque, and a few days later was approached by a mysterious man "who persuaded him to go to Afghanistan to undergo military training," says a French indictment.

"This man paid for his airline ticket, gave him 1,000 pounds ($1,850) and a telephone number in Pakistan."

Thus began an adventure in the Islamic militant underworld with strands that reach across Britain, France, Spain, Holland, Morocco, Algeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan—but which ended when he was caught stealing a pair of shoes in a Normandy port.

His lawyer says the 28-year-old was just a loner on the fringes of society who became unwittingly caught in a vast militant underground network beyond his understanding.

But prosecutors demanded on Tuesday that he and two other defendants be given long jail terms for associating with terrorists. They link him to the Moroccan militant networks responsible for both a wave of attacks in Casablanca last year and last month's attacks in Madrid.

Both sides are due to wrap up their cases in a Paris court this week, with a verdict expected later this month.

Courtailler knew key figures who have been linked to both the Madrid and Casablanca attacks, and his case ties those figures to extensive networks in Britain, France and elsewhere.

Since bombers killed 191 people in Madrid on March 11, police have moved rapidly against Islamic militants believed to be behind the strikes.

Spanish police have arrested 16 suspects in the Madrid bombings, followed by a raid this weekend in which five bombers and a policeman were killed. In France, authorities arrested 13 suspects in the Casablanca bombings on Monday.

But it has become clear that before March 11, Spanish police missed clues that a Moroccan network linked to the Casablanca strikes was also plotting to kill in Spain.

A Reuters investigation into the Courtailler case shows that police forces in other European countries also held extensive pieces of the puzzle.

David Courtailler's lawyer, Philbert Lepy, describes him as a down-and-out naif who entered the world of Islamic militants in a quest to find himself.

"He's a bit of an odd sort of guy. Actually at the time he had had a lot of problems in France. He'd had trouble finding work, he was a drug addict," Lepy told Reuters. *Reuters*

Spain hunts more blast suspects

MADRID—A Spanish prosecutor intensified the manhunt for suspects in last month's deadly Madrid train bombings, requesting as many as four international arrest warrants in Spain's worst terror attack, court officials said.

National Court Judge Juan del Olmo, who last week issued a similar warrant for six prime suspects, is expected to accept prosecutor Olga Sanchez's request over the next few days, the officials said Tuesday.

The government says three of the six fugitives named in last week's warrants were among at least five suspected terrorists who blew themselves up Saturday night as special forces prepared to storm their apartment in the suburb of Leganes, south of Madrid.

Officials say they included alleged ringleader Sarhane Ben Abdelmajid Fakhet of Tunisia and Moroccan Jamal Ahmidan, described as his right-hand man and the person who rented a decrepit rural house where the bombs used in the March 11 attacks were allegedly assembled.

Later Tuesday, forensic doctors and police scientists determined that more human remains found in an ongoing search of the Leganes apartment were from a sixth suspect, Spanish news reports said. *AP*

France finds crash site of 'Little Prince' author

MARSEILLE—A French underwater salvage team has discovered the remains of the plane piloted by the author of "The Little Prince," Antoine de Saint-Exupery, six decades after his mysterious disappearance, state researchers said Wednesday.

The pieces of the famous writer and aviator's Lockheed Lightning P38 aircraft, which vanished July 31, 1944 during a wartime reconnaissance mission, were found off the coast of the Mediterranean city of Marseille, the Culture Ministry's Department of Sub-aquatic and Submarine Archeological Research said.

The discovery is a galvanizing moment for France, which had long speculated as to the fate of Saint-Exupery, an aristocratic adventurer whose life and books turned him into one of the country's biggest heroes.

"The Little Prince," his edifying tale about an interstellar-traveling little boy who recounts his experiences to an aviator he meets in the Sahara Desert, brought him posthumous international fame.

The book, first published in New York in English in 1943 and since translated into more than 100 languages, is one of the best-selling titles on the planet, after the Bible and Das Kapital by Karl Marx.

Saint-Exupery, a veteran pilot who helped establish Latin America's Aeropostale air delivery service in the late 1920s, went missing shortly after flying out of his base on the French island of Corsica in good weather to photograph parts of southern France in preparation for the Allied landings there.

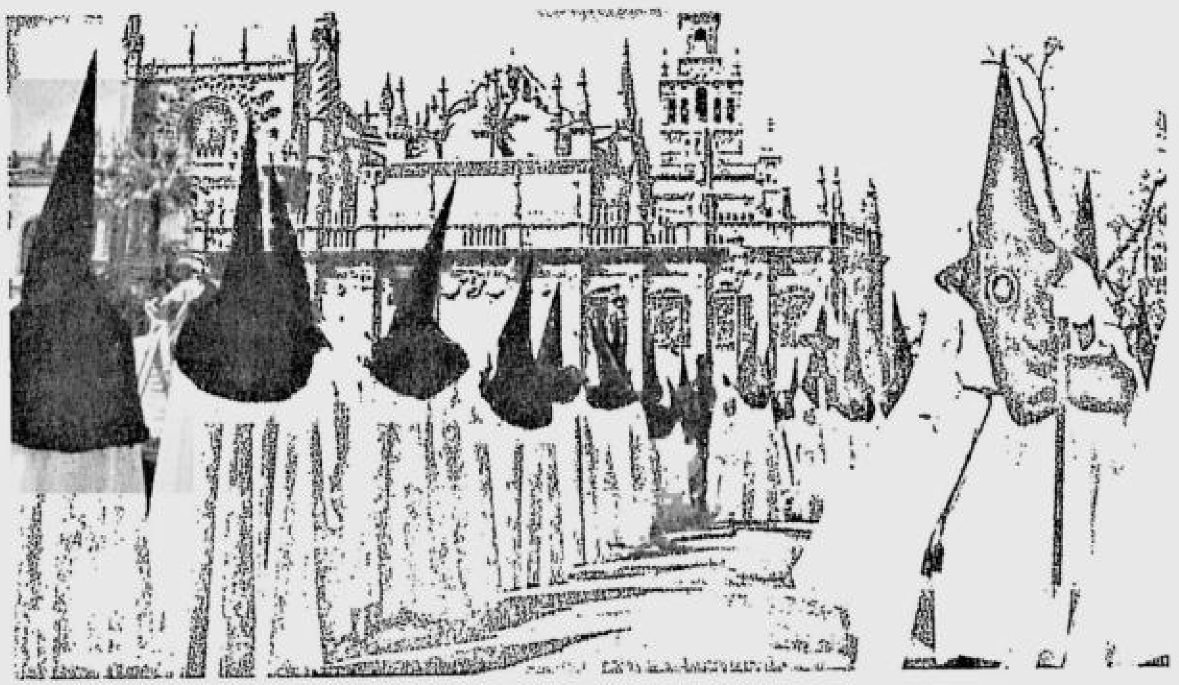
The pilot, then aged 44, never returned, and, until recently, it was not known whether his plane went down in the mountainous back country on the mainland, or somewhere in the Mediterranean Sea in between.

In May 2000, a professional French diver found the remains of a P38 plane in 230 feet of water off Marseille—in the same area that a fisherman two years earlier had brought to the surface a bracelet inscribed "Saint-Ex."

"The zone containing the pieces was very large, one kilometer long and 400 meter wide," the diver, Luc Vanrell, said.

Another diver who is also an amateur aviation expert, Philippe Castellano, said the combination of the bracelet and his information on the 42 P38 planes that had gone down in southern France convinced him "it could only have been Saint-Ex's plane."

But a state ban on further dives in the area delayed further searches until October 2003, when a contracted salvage team recovered the pieces from the aircraft for the culture ministry's researchers. *AFP*



PENITENTS march through a Holy Week procession in front of a cathedral in Seville, Spain, April 6. AP

Spanish town starts Holy Week

SEVILLE, Spain—Drunken teenagers hush their friends as the strains of a lament rise into the incense-filled air, and the Virgin of Bitterness sways gently into a darkened Seville square behind a sea of candles.

Lining her path to the church of San Juan through the crammed plaza are dozens of devotees dressed in white tunics that cover them from the tip of pointed wizard-like caps to their bare feet, with only two small circles for eyeholes.

The crowd pushes toward the float carrying the towering statue, reaching out to touch it or make the sign of the cross as the Virgin glides past.

It is half past two in the morning, and the first day of this southern Spanish city's Easter celebrations is drawing to an emotional close.

In the flickering candlelight, the square looks much as it might have in the 16th century, when the processions that every year cast a spell over residents and growing numbers of tourists, are thought to have begun.

In the six days that the "Semana Santa"—Holy Week—celebrations last, thousands of hooded penitents, many carrying crosses, escort dozens of larger-than-life images through the heart of the city, accompanied by brass bands, the haunting sound of flamenco laments, or an eerie silence.

The mix of religious fervor and Baroque theatricality lies at the heart of Seville's identity, embraced by everyone from dreadlocked teenagers to sedate middle-aged couples.

"Semana Santa is the most beautiful thing about Seville," said 15-year-old Marta Moreno, out watching processions in a tight pink top and jeans, which she planned to swap for a tunic later in the week. *Reuters*

Hong Kong activists head for showdown with China

HONG KONG—Thousands of Hong Kong democracy activists are expected to protest this Sunday against Beijing's decision to assume full control of the city's political process as a newspaper warned of popular discontent spilling onto the streets.

"We expect some 10,000 people when we march to Beijing's representative office. We want the government to begin public consultations on democratic reforms at once," said a spokesperson of the Civil Human Rights Front.

The group organized a massive anti-government protest last July, which shocked the Chinese leadership.

Sunday's planned showdown comes after China's parliament on Tuesday passed interpretations of clauses in Hong Kong's constitution on how its leaders and lawmakers may be chosen.

The move effectively rules out any real say for Hong Kong people, who were promised a high degree of autonomy when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

About 60 percent of Hong Kong people want to directly elect their leader and lawmakers by as soon as 2007, but that prospect is now next to nil, political commentators say.

The interpretations mean that in one stroke, Beijing now has the right to veto any proposed electoral change and will even have the authority to decide if political changes are needed—which means it can delay political reform for as long as it likes.

Despite its unpopularity, the move has left hardly any impression on markets in this financial hub.

"If there is no violence, the markets should be fine and impact will be minimal," said one money market dealer.

Kingston Lin, associate director at Prudential Brokerage, said: "There's no impact on the financial markets. In fact, the ruling helps cool off quarrels and stabilizes Hong Kong, which in turn will have less effect on the city's economy."

ING Financial Markets told its clients in a note:

"Political noise may rise with Beijing taking full control over Hong Kong's political reforms but it is unlikely to undermine strong economic fundamentals, because the strong economy will overshadow any political uncertainties."

But some people involved in long-term investments and strategic planning were more circumspect.

"How China has interpreted the law is now beside the point, the fact that it has done it is horrifying to me," said a fund manager with a European investment house. *Reuters*

Iran pledges to speed up nuclear cooperation with UN

TEHRAN—Iran pledged on Tuesday to accelerate cooperation with the UN atomic watchdog in a bid to prove it is not seeking nuclear weapons, but also pressed to end UN inspections by June.

Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said Iran had agreed to a timetable for atomic checks and to submit full details of its nuclear program and ambitions to the IAEA in mid-May.

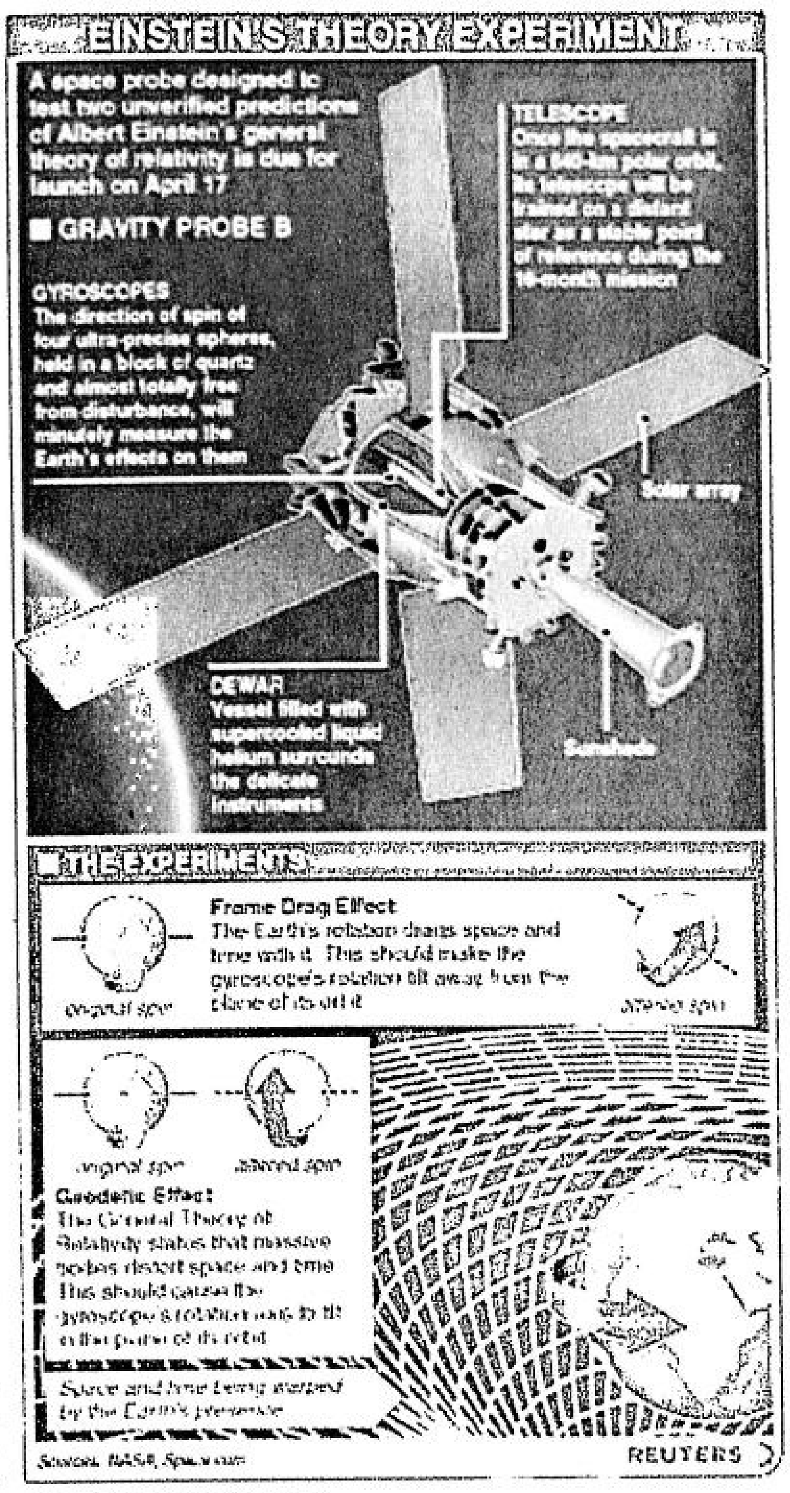
"(Iranian nuclear chief Gholamreza Aghazadeh) committed that Iran will do everything possible to accelerate the process of resolving the outstanding issues," ElBaradei told reporters after talks in Tehran.

The IAEA is seeking clarification of how traces of weapons-grade uranium came to be found at the Natanz enrichment plant south of Tehran and a Kalaye Electric Company workshop.

If enriched to a low level, uranium can be used to fuel nuclear power stations. But further enrichment can make it suitable for use in warheads.

The United States accuses Iran of pursuing a nuclear weapons program, but Tehran says its nuclear ambitions are confined to generating electricity. Hawks in Washington are seeking to get the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against Iran.

US State Department spokesperson Adam Ereli told reporters the United States would take a wait-and-see attitude. *Reuters*


EINSTEIN'S THEORY EXPERIMENT
A space probe designed to test two unverified predictions of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity is due for launch on April 17
GRAVITY PROBE B
TELESCOPE
Once the spacecraft is in a 640-km polar orbit, its telescope will be trained on a distant star as a stable point of reference during the 16-month mission
GYROSCOPES
The direction of spin of four ultra-precise spheres, held in a block of quartz and almost totally free from disturbance, will minutely measure the Earth's effects on them
Solar array
DEWAR
Vessel filled with supercooled liquid helium surrounds the delicate instruments
Sunshade
THE EXPERIMENTS
Frame Drag Effect
The Earth's rotation drags space and time with it. This should make the gyroscope's rotation tilt away from the plane of its orbit
original spin
altered spin
original spin
altered spin
Geodetic Effect
The General Theory of Relativity states that massive bodies distort space and time. This should cause the gyroscope's rotation axis to tilt in the plane of its orbit
Space and time being warped by the Earth's presence
Source: NASA, Space.com
REUTERS

EINSTEIN SATELLITE

Illustration and diagrams explaining the experiments to be carried out by Nasa's Gravity Probe B satellite, due for launch on April 17, which is designed to test Einstein's theories on gravity.

Koizumi violated constitution, court rules

TOKYO—A Japanese court ruled on Wednesday that Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi had violated the constitution by visiting a shrine honoring Japan's military war dead, a landmark ruling on his annual pilgrimages that have angered China and other Asian neighbors.

But Koizumi vowed to keep visiting Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, where war criminals are among those honored and which critics at home and abroad regard as a symbol of Japan's past militarism.

"It's strange," Koizumi told reporters after news of the court ruling. "I don't know why it violated the constitution."

Asked if he would go again, he replied: "I will."

In the first such ruling against Koizumi's visits, the Fukuoka District Court said the prime minister's visit to Yasukuni on Aug. 13, 2001 violated the constitutional separation of religion and state.

But the court rejected a demand by 211 plaintiffs for damages of 100,000 yen ($945) each.

"Despite strong opposition from within the (ruling) Liberal Democratic Party and ordinary citizens, Koizumi went four times to Yasukuni, which cannot be said to be the best place to honor war dead," Kyodo news agency quoted the court as saying in its ruling. "This was based on political calculations." *Reuters*

GUESTS from Egypt and Switzerland with Farouk Hussni (second from left), Egypt's minister of culture; Zahi Hawas (center), president of Egypt's supreme council of Antiquities, and Swiss Federal councilor Pascal Couchepin (third right) look at the Coffin of Tuja, mother-in-law of ancient Egyptian King Amenophis III, during the pre-opening of the exhibition "Tutankhamun-The Golden Beyond" in the Museum of Antiquities in Basel, Switzerland April 6. AP

Disgruntled Burmese nationals attack embassy in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—Three men armed with firebombs, machetes and an ax attacked Burma's embassy in Malaysia Wednesday, hacking one senior official and starting a blaze that destroyed the building, officials and witnesses said.

Police arrested the three suspects, Burmese nationals who had been turned away from the embassy on Tuesday after demanding that officials endorse documents claiming that a relative was a freedom fighter in the country, also known as Myanmar.

They returned about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, scaled the embassy's outer wall and began shouting demands and waving their weapons, including plastic bags filled with gasoline, Myint Thein Win, the mission's second secretary, told reporters.

The eight officials on duty locked themselves inside the embassy, and when a senior diplomat went outside to talk to the attackers, he was attacked with the ax and suffered head and hand injuries, Myint Thien Win said.

"They started to throw petrol in plastic bags at the building and set fire," he said. "They tried to burn the ambassador's car. The minister counselor was attacked with an ax."

Police arrived soon afterward. The other embassy staff escaped without injury, Myint Thien Win said.

A Kuala Lumpur Fire Services Department official said more than 30 firefighters were dispatched to the embassy—in the diplomatic district of downtown Kuala Lumpur—shortly before 10 a.m. and found the small two-story building ablaze.

The fire was brought under control within about 30 minutes, but not before "the office block was destroyed," the spokesperson said.

Witnesses, including an Associated Press photographer, described the building as being completely gutted by the fire.

Tens of thousands of immigrants from Burma live in Malaysia, which is one of Southeast Asia's wealthiest countries and a magnet for migrant workers. Malaysia also attracts hundreds of asylum seekers who claim they face persecution from Burma's military rulers.

The fire is the second security breach at a diplomatic mission in Kuala Lumpur in the past eight days, though they appear to be unrelated.

On March 30, someone threw an explosive device at Australia's High Commission in the city, scorching an outer wall but causing no major damage or injuries. Police said the device was a bottle filled with firecracker powder. No arrests have been made. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Haiti's ex-interior minister arrested

PORT-AU-PRINCE—Haitian police on Tuesday detained the former interior minister in the government of President Jean Bertrand Aristide on suspicion of involvement in the killings of opposition members in February, police said. Jocelerme Privert was detained at his home in the capital, Port-au-Prince, after at first resisting arrest and is now in prison, according to police spokesperson Commissioner Max Isaac. Privert is wanted in connection with a series of killings of Aristide opponents in the town of Saint Marc in February. The spokesman said police staged a raid on Privert's home just after midnight. "Mr. Privert first tried to escape, but he cooperated and his arrest was completed at 2 a.m.," added Isaac. A large amount of evidence was seized at the home, Isaac said. *AFP*

Lithuania sacks president over corruption

VILNIUS— Lithuania's parliament threw out President Rolandas Paksas on Tuesday after 15 months in office, narrowly voting to impeach him on corruption charges just weeks before the former Soviet republic joins the EU. "From this day April 6, 2004 Rolandas Paksas, by decision of the parliament, is dismissed from the post of president of the republic," said Supreme Court head Vytautas Greicius. The assembly voted narrowly to oust him on all three charges of violating the Baltic country's constitution, although Paksas had protested his innocence to the end. The flag was lowered at Paksas' presidential palace in Vilnius' cobbled Old Town as the announcement was made, only to be hoisted again as parliament handed over the reins to speaker Arturas Paulauskas. *AFP*

Amtrak train derails in Mississippi

YAZOO CITY, Mississippi—An Amtrak passenger train derailed and toppled on its side in rural central Mississippi, killing at least one person and injuring at least 65 others. The 10-car train, traveling from New Orleans to Chicago, derailed about 40 km north of Jackson Tuesday night, authorities said, leaving in its wake twisted and heavily damaged track. "We have one confirmed dead," said Amy Carruth, a spokesperson for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency in Jackson. "We understand some of the injured are possibly critical." All passengers and crew had been accounted late Tuesday, Carruth said. Lee Stokes, also of MEMA, said that while the derailment was believed to be an accident, the FBI had sent agents to the scene. Gov. Haley Barbour declared a state of emergency. *AP*

Russian general survives slay try

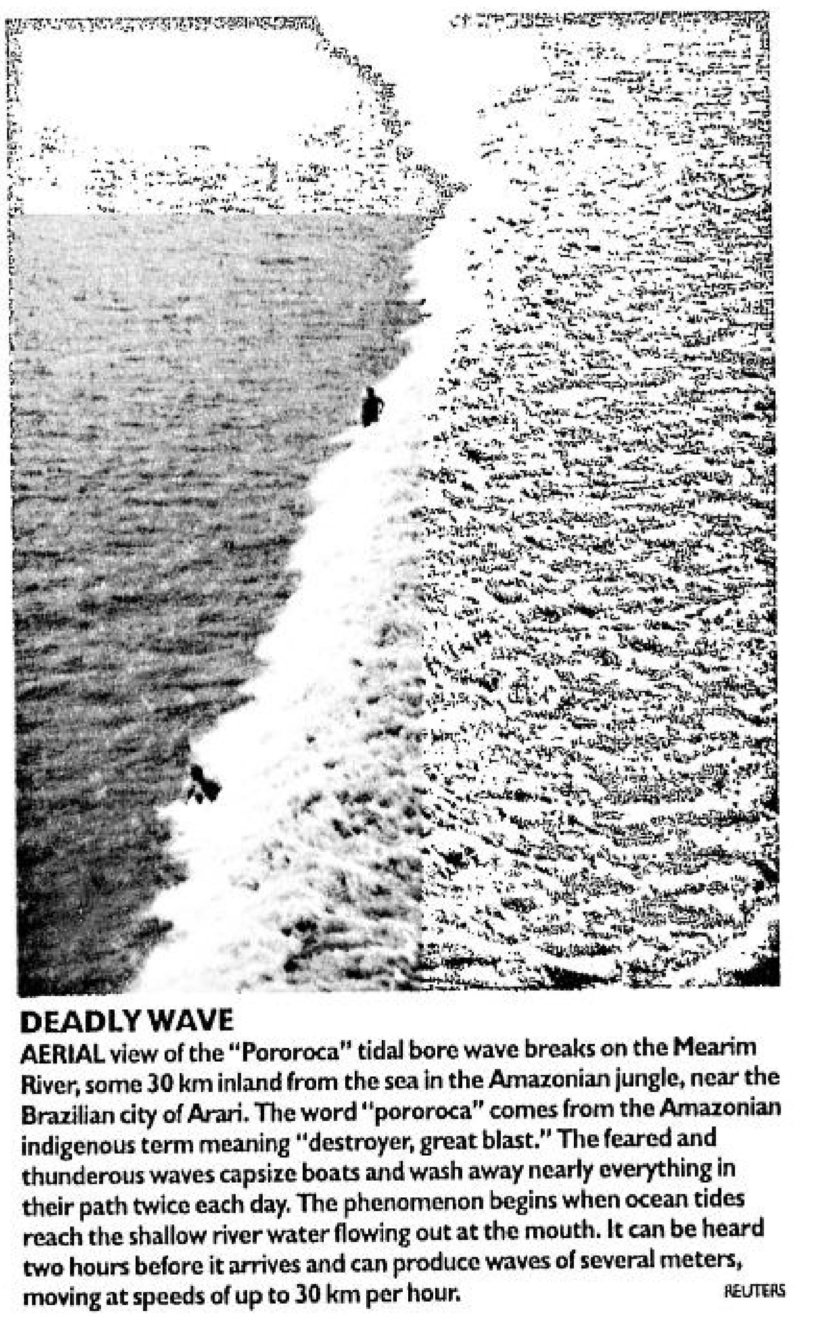
TBILISI—The commander of Russian forces in the southern Caucasus region survived an assassination attempt in Georgia on Tuesday, Tbilisi officials said. Moscow's foreign ministry called for an urgent investigation into the attack on Maj. Gen. Alexander Studenikin that it said was aimed at damaging relations between Georgia and Russia. Studenikin was taken to hospital with minor injuries after a bomb explosion within the grounds of the Russian military headquarters in Tbilisi. Earlier reports suggested the blast had hit his car. "It was definitely an assassination attempt," Tbilisi prosecutor Valery Grigalashvili told Reuters. "The blast happened on territory guarded by Russian officers. The general was slightly wounded, but there is no threat to his life. He was taken to a military hospital. No one else was hurt." *Reuters*

S. Korean FM vows to send troops to Iraq

SEOUL—South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon on Wednesday vowed to push ahead as planned with the dispatch of thousands of troops to Iraq despite deteriorating security in the war-torn state. "There is no change at all in our principle of dispatching troops to Iraq," Ban said during his weekly press briefing. Ban spoke a day after two South Koreans were released following their 14-hour detention by the militia of Shiite radical leader Moqtada Sadr in Iraq. The duo, a relief worker and a company employee, were freed unharmed in southern Iraq, but the incident sparked concerns about the security of South Korean troops to be deployed in the country. In February, South Korea's parliament endorsed the dispatch of more than 3,000 South Korean troops to help rebuild Iraq this year at the request of the United States. *AFP*

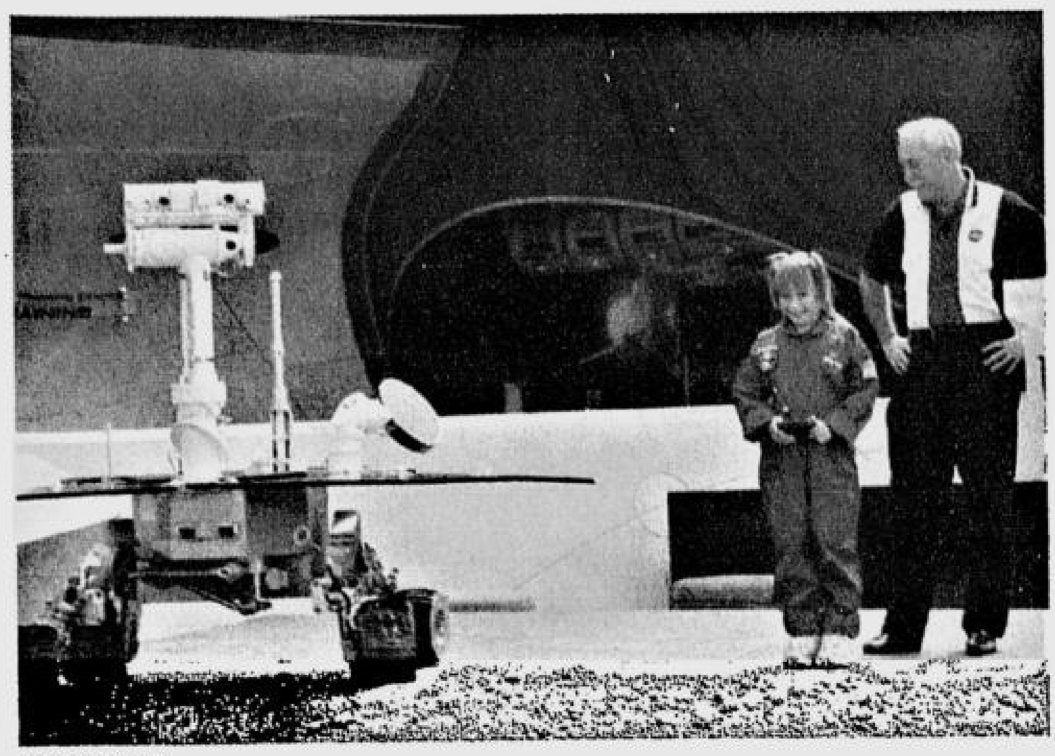
Rice set to defend Bush in 9/11 probe

WASHINGTON—National security adviser and presidential confidante Condoleezza Rice enters the fray of sworn public 9-11 commission hearings on Thursday to defend US President George W. Bush against charges he ignored an urgent al-Qaida threat before the Sept. 11 attacks. After months of White House resistance to public testimony, Rice is scheduled to swear an oath before live television cameras in a packed congressional hearing room and then launch what many expect to be a refutation of bombshell allegations from former White House counterterrorism czar Richard Clarke. Republicans hope her 2-1/2 hour appearance before the panel of five Republicans and five Democrats will end weeks of controversy about whether the administration heeded warnings about Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida before the 2001 attacks on Washington and New York that killed some 3,000 people. Some even view her performance as a possible audition for a top Cabinet post, given Secretary of State Colin Powell's anticipated departure in the event of a second Bush term. "I'm looking forward to Condi testifying," Bush told reporters this week. "She'll be great. She's a very smart capable person who knows exactly what took place and will lay out out the facts. *Reuters*



DEADLY WAVE

AERIAL view of the "Pororoca" tidal bore wave breaks on the Mearim River, some 30 km inland from the sea in the Amazonian jungle, near the Brazilian city of Arari. The word "pororoca" comes from the Amazonian indigenous term meaning "destroyer, great blast." The feared and thunderous waves capsize boats and wash away nearly everything in their path twice each day. The phenomenon begins when ocean tides reach the shallow river water flowing out at the mouth. It can be heard two hours before it arrives and can produce waves of several meters, moving at speeds of up to 30 km per hour. REUTERS



WHIZ KID
SOFI Collis, the fourth grade student, a native of Siberia now living in Scottsdale, Arizona, who named the two Mars Rovers Spirit and Opportunity, controls the slow travel of an actual Mars Rover as Nasa Administrator Sean O'Keefe (right) looks on at Epcot in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, April 6. AP

Election spells trouble for Indonesia's Megawati

JAKARTA—Initial results from parliamentary elections point to a realignment of Indonesian politics that spells trouble for President Megawati Sukarnoputri's hopes for reelection and props up dark horse rivals promising clean government and a better life.

"In less than one week there will be a new political map in Indonesia," said Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, cofounder of the newly formed Democrat Party and the candidate fast emerging as Megawati's most serious rival in the July presidential race.

He was referring to the intense horse-trading that has already begun in the wake of Monday's legislative vote. Parties are jostling to form coalitions that will almost certainly give new prominence to Yudhoyono's group and one or more Islamic-based parties which had surprisingly strong showings in early results.

Two mainstream secular parties—Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, known as PDIP, and the Golkar Party of former dictator Suharto—are set to win the most parliamentary seats in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

But Golkar's strong showing has hurt prospects for a Golkar-PDIP alliance that would have ensured their mutual stranglehold on power. Golkar officials said earlier they might offer a vice presidential candidate on Megawati's reelection ticket if the party placed second in the parliamentary vote.

That means upstart parties will likely have a big say in the formation of the next government. Parties like Yudhoyono's and the Islamic-based Party of Justice and Prosperity have won support by promising to attack the endemic corruption that is hobbling Indonesia's fledgling experiment with democracy.

"This is a wake-up call to the established parties that people are not happy with the way things have been going for the past five years," said political analyst Dewi Fortuna Anwar.

As of Wednesday morning, about 15 percent of the estimated 125 million votes cast had been counted. The results showed Golkar and PDIP in a virtual tie with about 20 percent each. *AP*

Study cites benefits of frequent ejaculation

CHICAGO—Men who enjoy an active sex life need not fret that their sexual activities will put them at risk of prostate cancer later in life, according to a study released Tuesday.

A study of almost 30,000 American men found no link between frequency of ejaculation and risk of prostate cancer, contrary to much previous research on the subject.

The results of the largest epidemiological study to date on the association between ejaculation and this type of cancer found quite the reverse.

An analysis of men's sexual histories and the incidence of prostate cancer in the group suggested that frequent ejaculation may have some modest beneficial or protective effect in connection with prostate cancer.

"Our results suggest that high ejaculation frequency possibly may be associated with a lower risk of ... prostate cancer," said Michael Leitzmann, chief investigator and cancer researcher with the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

The link between ejaculation and cancer of the prostate—the most common type of cancer among men in industrialized nations—has long been a matter of dispute.

An influential study in the journal Epidemiology published in 2002, concluded that there was an increased prostate cancer risk with greater sexual activity based on a review of existing scientific data.

Scientists who support this theory point to the fact that the male hormone testosterone is known to promote the growth of prostate cancer cells.

But Leitzmann's study, while it did not focus on the benefits of sexual activity, found that men who ejaculate 13 times a month or more, are much less likely to develop prostate cancer later in life than men who only do it four to seven times a month. *AFP*

DNA tests clear ex-death row inmate

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Virginia—DNA tests conclusively prove the innocence of former death row inmate Earl Washington Jr. in the rape and slaying of a woman in 1982, according to defense documents filed Tuesday.

Washington, who spent more than nine years on death row, was pardoned in 2000, 17 years after he was imprisoned for the killing of Rebecca Williams of Culpeper.

Washington's attorneys said results of the new tests show that the evidence that would have cleared Washington—and convicted another man—has been in the state's custody for years but was misinterpreted by Virginia forensic scientists.

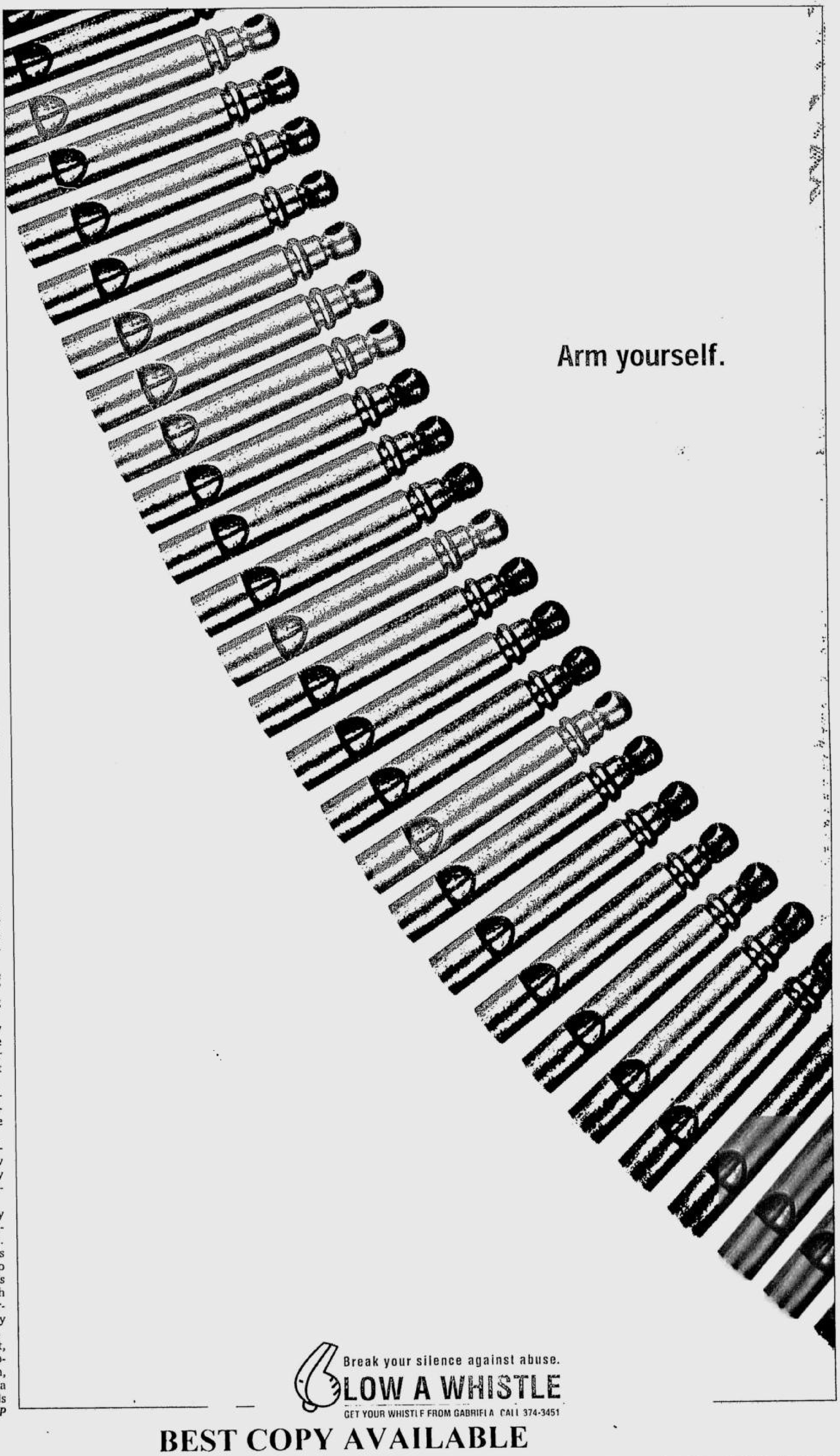
"This shows the testing done by the vaunted crime lab in Virginia was completely erroneous. They just blew it," Peter Neufeld, one of Washington's lawyers, said Tuesday.

Paul B. Ferrara, director of Virginia's Division of Forensic Science, said he will review the new report and data but that he is "fully confident in the accuracy of the work performed" in the case.

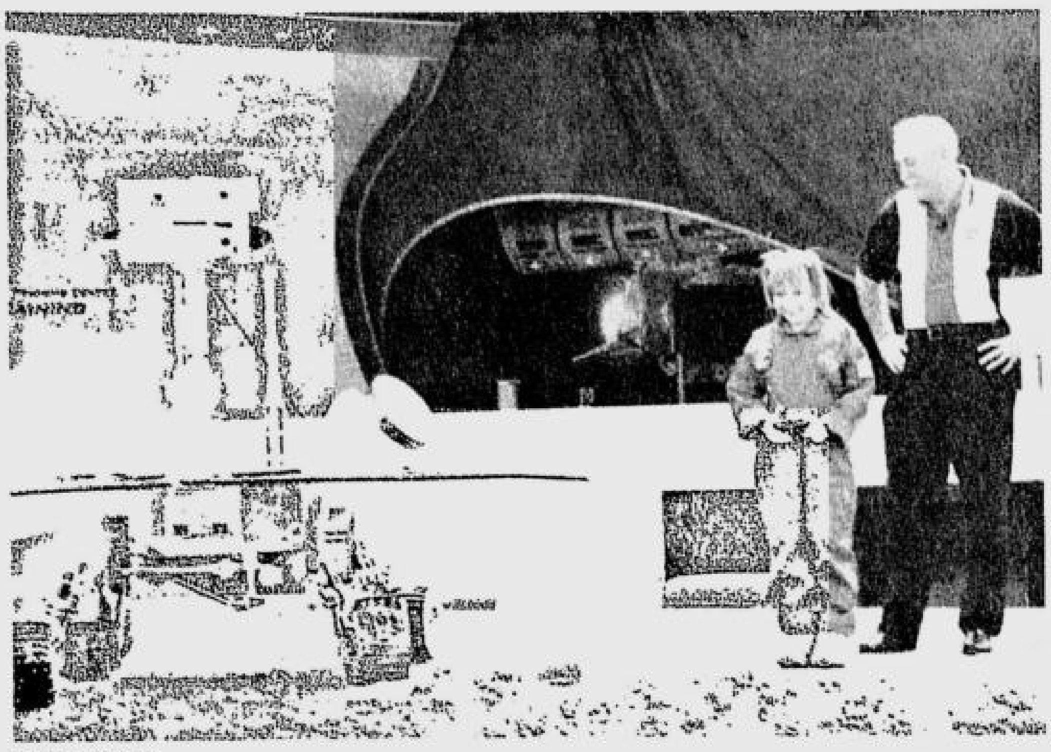
A spokesperson for Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore said Tuesday she could not comment because of the continuing investigation.

Washington's lawyers sent the DNA samples to Edward T. Blake, a California scientist, who concluded that semen found on the victim's body was left by a serial rapist named Kenneth Tinsley. Virginia forensic scientists had determined only that the genetic material was left by an unidentified man who was not Washington.

In a civil suit filed in US District Court, Washington's attorneys have alleged that police and prosecutors coerced Washington, who has an IQ of 69, into confessing to a crime he did not commit and ignored details that pointed to his innocence. *AP*


Arm yourself.
Break your silence against abuse.
BLOW A WHISTLE
GET YOUR WHISTLE FROM GABRIELA CALL 374-3451

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



WHIZ KID
SOFI Collis, the fourth grade student, a native of Siberia now living in Scottsdale, Arizona, who named the two Mars Rovers Spirit and Opportunity, controls the slow travel of an actual Mars Rover as Nasa Administrator Sean O'Keefe (right) looks on at Epcot in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, April 6.

Election spells trouble for Indonesia's Megawati

JAKARTA—Initial results from parliamentary elections point to a realignment of Indonesian politics that spells trouble for President Megawati Sukarnoputri's hopes for reelection and props up dark horse rivals promising clean government and a better life.

"In less than one week there will be a new political map in Indonesia," said Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, cofounder of the newly formed Democrat Party and the candidate fast emerging as Megawati's most serious rival in the July presidential race.

He was referring to the intense horse-trading that has already begun in the wake of Monday's legislative vote. Parties are jostling to form coalitions that will almos new prominence to Yudhoyono's group and one or more Islamic-based parties which had surprisingly strong showings in early results.

Two mainstream secular parties —Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, known as PDIP, and the Golkar Party of former dictator Suharto are set to win the most parliamentary seats in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

But Golkar's strong showing has hurt prospects for a Golkar-PDIP alliance that would have ensured their mutual stranglehold on power. Golkar officials said earlier they might offer a vice presidential candidate Megawati's reelection ticket if the rry placed second in the par

That means upstart parties will likely have a big say in the formation of the next government. Parties like Yudhoyono's and the Islamic-based Party of Justice and Prosperity have won support by promising to attack the endemic corruption that is hobbling Indonesia's fledgling experiment with democracy.

"This is a wake-up call to the established parties that people are not happy with the way things have been going for the past five years," said political analyst Dewi Fortuna Anwar.

As of Wednesday morning, about 15 percent of the estimated 125 million votes cast had been counted. The results showed Golkar and PDIP in a virtual tie with about 20 percent each. *AP*

Study cites benefits of frequent ejaculation

CHICAGO—Men who enjoy an active sex life need not fret that their sexual activities will put them at risk of prostate cancer later in life according to a study released Tuesday.

A study of almost 30,000 American men found no link between frequency of ejaculation and risk of prostate cancer, contrary to much previous research on the subject.

The results of the largest epidemiological study to date on the association between ejaculation and this type of cancer found quite the reverse.

An analysis of men's sexual histories and the incidence of prostate cancer in the group suggested that frequent ejaculation may have some modest beneficial or protective effect in connection with prostate cancer.

"Our results suggest that high ejaculation frequency possibly may be associated with a lower risk of prostate cancer," said Michael Leitzmann, chief investigator and cancer researcher with the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

The link between ej and cancer of the prostate —the most common type of cancer among men in industrialized nations— has long been a matter of dispute.

An influential dy in the urnal Epidemiology published in 2002, concluded that there was an increased prostate cancer risk with greater sexual activity based on review of existing scientific data.

Scientists upport t ry point t the fact that the male hormone testosterone is known to promote th owth of prostate cancer cells.

But Leitzmann's study, while it did not focus on the benefit of sexual activity, found that men who ejaculate 13 times a month or more, are much less likely to develop prostate cancer later in life than men who only do it four to seven times a month. *AFP*

DNA tests clear ex-death row inmate

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Virginia—DNA tests conclusively prove the innocence of former death row inmate Earl Washington Jr. in the rape and slaying of a woman in 1982, according to defense documents filed Tuesday.

Washington, who spent more than nine years on death row, was pardoned in 2000, 17 years after he was imprisoned for the killing of Rebecca Williams of Culpeper.

Washington's attorneys said results of the new tests show that the evidence that would have cleared Washington and convicted another man has been in the state's custody for years but was misinterpreted by Virginia forensic scientists.

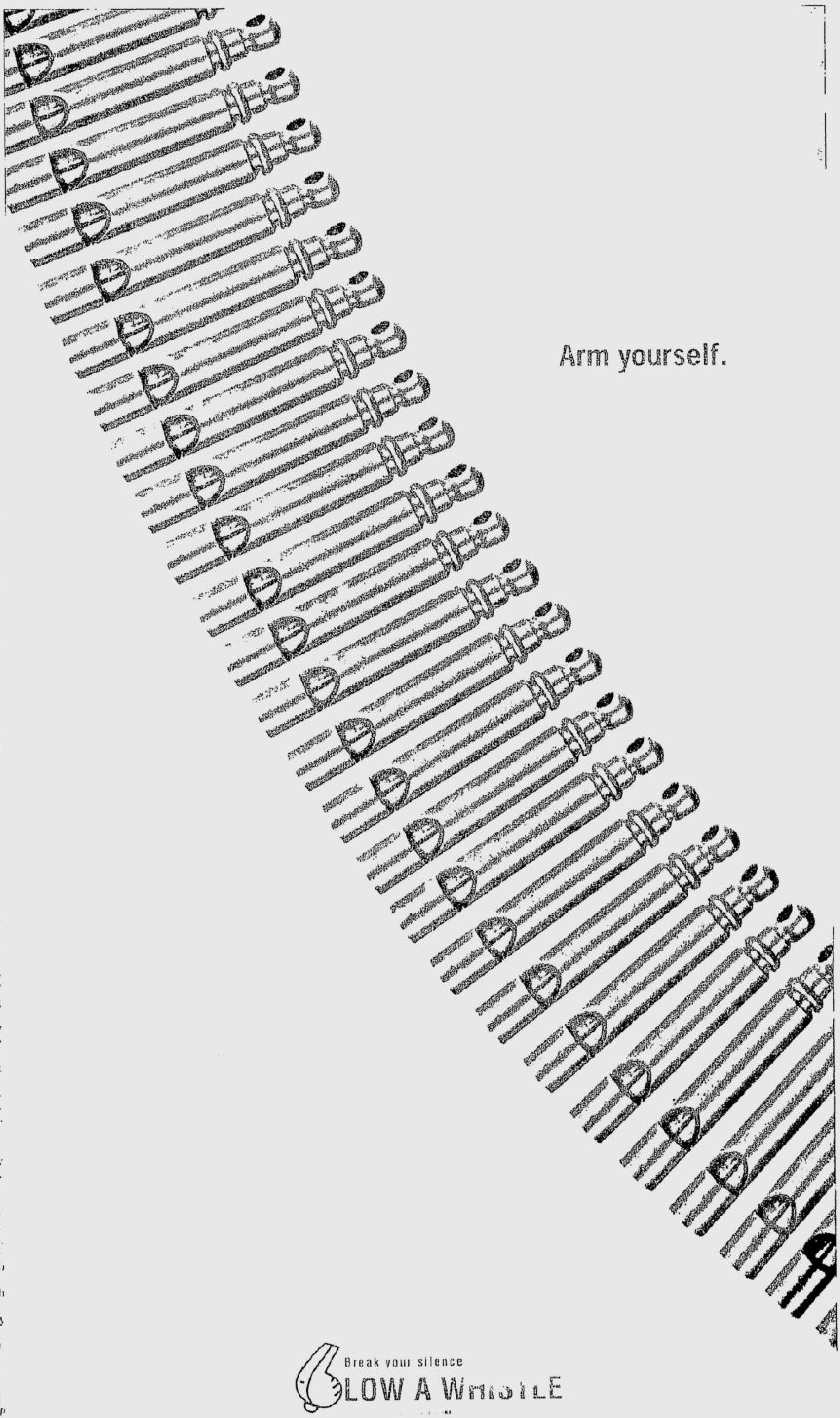
"This shows the testing done by the vaunted crime lab in Virginia was completely erroneous. They just blew it," Peter Neufeld, one of Washington's lawyers said Tuesday.

Paul B. Ferra director of Virginia's Division of Forensic Science said he will review the new report and data but that he is "fully confident in the of the work performed" the

A spokesperson Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore Tuesday ould not comment becau of the onti ing investigation.

Washingto ent the DNA sample to Edward T. Bl alifornia scientist, who concluded tha und on the victim' body wa eft b rapist named Kenneth Tinsley. V for entist had determined only that the netic material was left by an unidentified m wh was not Washington.

In U.S. District Court Washington ttorne alleged that police and utor Washington who ha IQ of 69 crime he ot etail *AP*



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2004
ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 122
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax. 528-02-34.

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **NILO B. PAUROM**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
City Editor **GERRY LIRIO**
Senior Desk Editor **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **DAVID O. VALDES**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Click

EDITORIAL

THE FOOTAGE of the charred corpses of civilian contractors being set upon by a crowd in Fallujah, Iraq, sent shock waves to the world at large. Reactions among thoughtful viewers were invariably that of horror at the savagery inflicted on the blackened bodies, and, consequently, a casting about for means to comprehend the depth of human emotion that conceivably fueled the act.

Predictably, the outrage felt at seeing the footage produced another chilling outrage: a conclusion that the act of corpse mutilation was an Arab act, as though it were—and this said by at least one Filipino viewer with certainty—"in the blood."

Philip Kennicott of The Washington Post cites the "little click" in the brain that allows such people as "surgeons, pathologists, embalmers and even the corner butcher" to perform their assigned tasks—the "shift in moral vision" that, he notes, enables human beings to objectify the living or now-lifeless mass before them and, as the case may be, "heal the sick, bury the dead, or eat a steak."

Yet this same act of objectification that allows for healing, crime investigation, interment of the dearly departed, and, yes, fine dining (if gourmets seriously thought of what went into the making of *pâté de foie gras,* they'd break into tears and swear off the stuff), also allows for other darker things.

It allowed, for example, the rapist-killers of 7-year-old Angel Alquiza in 1994 to violate her breathing body and eventually her corpse in ways unthinkable in a society deemed civilized: beat her with a piece of wood, gouged out her eyes, slashed her ears, neck and genitals, tied her hands and feet, stuffed her in a sack.

It presumably allowed, in Mel Gibson's directorial eye, the unspeakable torture of the Christ.

But also, as Kennicott observes: "To see a human being only as an object—an enemy, an occupier or an animal—unlocks the possibility for war, revolution and genocide."

Indeed, objectification has allowed for the insane act of all-out war, when Philippine Presidents order government pilots to drop bombs on civilian areas in Mindanao to flush out insurgents, never mind the screaming children or the women and men desperately scrambling to save hearth and home.

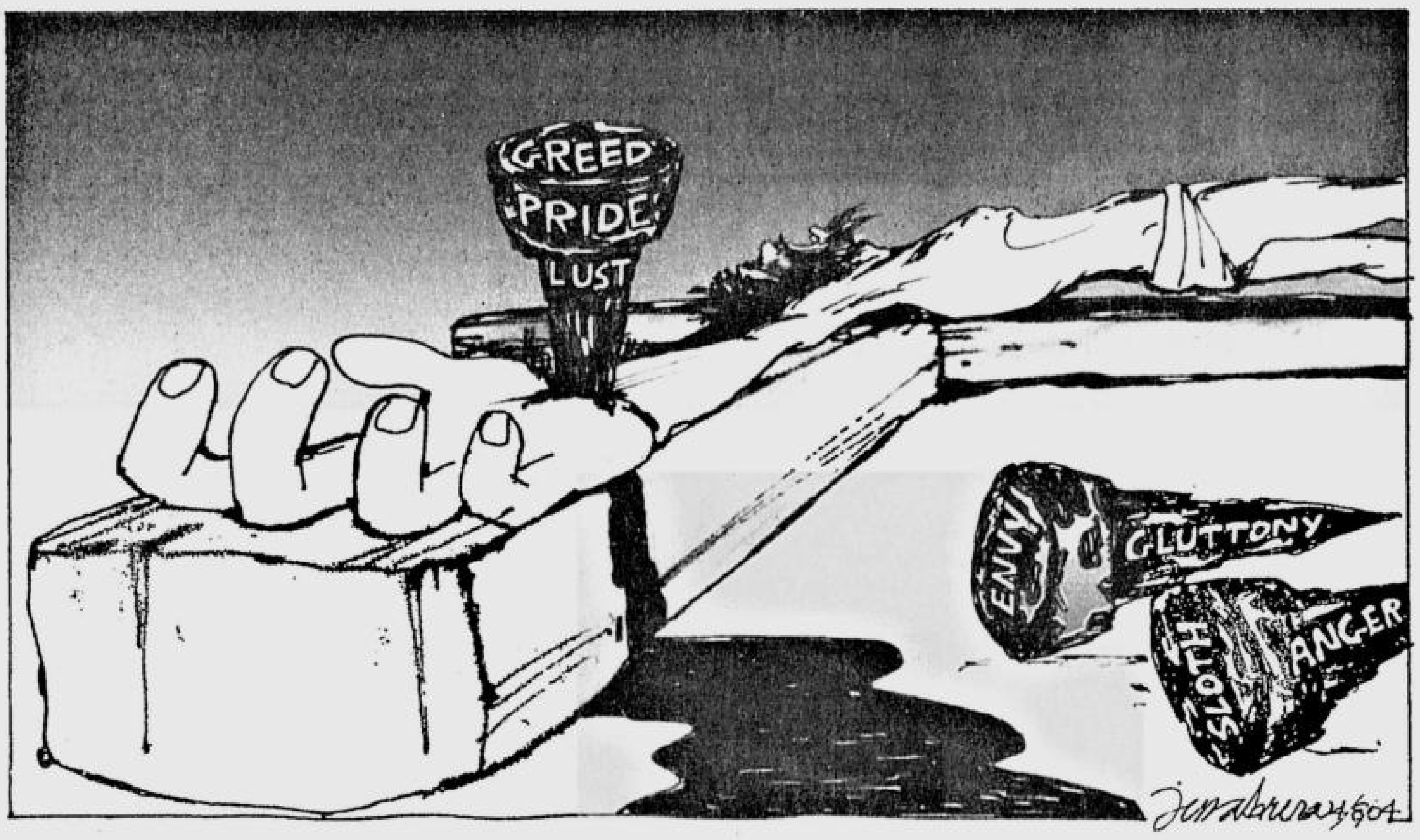
It allowed members of the Tiger Force, an elite unit of the US Army, to commit atrocities in Vietnam in 1967, such as forcing a Vietnamese girl about 13 or 14 years old "to give [Pvt. Sam Ybarra and Spec. Kenneth Green] a blow job," after which "they cut her throat and killed her." Or Sgt. Harold Trout to order his subordinate James R. Barnett to take his M-16, point it at a Vietnamese woman with a six-month-old baby, and shoot her in the chest. (Excerpts from the inquiry: Why did you shoot that woman, Mr. Barnett? "Because I was told by Trout to do it and I carried out what he told me." Did you have to carry out this order? "I felt at the time I had to do it, because I was told to do it. Today I know better.")

Kennicott urges the viewer of the Fallujah footage to in effect discard the veil shrouding the "other" and to come to terms with the fact of hatred: "The people who killed those contractors in Fallujah hated them, hated us, hated America so much that the little click of objectification went not through one mind but the many minds of the crowd. Try to see it without distractions, without the exoticism of the locale, the strange dress, the incomprehensible chants."

"This is what it looks like to objectify people," Kennicott writes. "We should know, we've done it before, to our own people and to others. We couldn't have gone to war in the first place if we hadn't used our powers of abstraction, distancing and objectification, to minimize the human consequences of our still-fruitless search for weapons of mass destruction."

Filipino viewers of the footage would do well to remember that that search—and everything that it has entailed and continues to entail—has the full and unqualified backing of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration. It's a point to ponder during this forced shutdown of life as we know it in these parts, when the pietistic put on mournful faces and go through the paces of religious ritual in keeping with what's expected.

It's a point to harp on after this welcome ruminative mood passes and the long holiday that the administration has so generously decreed (to, as it were, keep the natives happy) gives way to the trying ordeal ahead.



Swapping Barabbas for Barabbas?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

UNLIKE the Good Friday crowds massed before Pilate, will our choice, come elections, be limited to swapping Barrabas for Barrabas?

This lesser-evil option forms the backdrop for the unexpected crowds that turned out for preacher-now-candidate Eddie Villanueva's proclamation.

They were "an index of the despair and revulsion ordinary people feel about traditional politics and gross corruption," Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture's Melba Padilla-Maggay says.

Many came, not primarily for Villanueva, she notes in a paper titled: "Religion In This Election." Rather, they backed the call for: "righteous governance."

In 2004, a sizable part of this religious community sees itself as a potential voting bloc, the paper notes. "(Thus) we see up-front a force seeking to insert itself directly into political space."

They represent "an emerging bloc of votes," Dr. Maggay adds. "It could rival that of the Iglesia ni Cristo in this election."

This is a country that jealousy guards political turf. So, this assertion will probably raise hackles. Furthermore, the voting segment Villanueva claims to represent—Protestant evangelicals and "full gospel" churches—is also the new kid on the block.

Two decades back, these churches were "apolitical and concerned only with spiritual renewal." They were also a minority within a largely Catholic nation, the UP social scientist points out. "Protestantism, as a faith tradition, puts emphasis on freedom of individual conscience." No marching, in lockstep, to the voting booth for them.

Recent growth in numbers stokes this new assertiveness, Dr. Maggay says. In this paper, she asserts: "from a measly three percent in the sixties to as much as an estimated 15 percent to 20 percent of the present population."

Within this community, "the numbers floating internally as potential votes... (run as high) as eight million." Many assume the community is cohesive enough to vote solidly." More "gung-ho" backers assert "this is much more than the two-million swing vote that the INC has wielded."

That remains to be seen. More recent—and firmer—figures would have been useful. (Oxford University's World Christian Encylopedia, for example, provides this breakdown: Catholics—82.4 percent; Muslims—6.2 percent; Protestants—5 percent)

Invariably, all surveys consistently track Villanueva as tail ender. The latest Social Weather Stations survey shows no change: Villanueva trails at 2.8 percent—behind the two frontrunners: Fernando Poe Jr. at 32 percent and the President at 31.4 percent.

Do rally head counts really equal ballots cast? "It's not enough that intelligent people vote for me," US presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson once cracked. "I need a majority."

Is this muscle flexing the reason why "disqualification cases" were lobbed against Villanueva? By seeking election, the pastor fractures separation of Church from State, his critics claim.

Nonsense, commented Ateneo's Joaquin Bernas, SJ, probably the country's leading constitutional authority. In his Sunday column titled "Why Pick On Brother Eddie?" Father Bernas wrote: "To disqualify ministers is to wrongfully invade their freedom of belief... and impose on them a religious test in flagrant violation of the constitution."

In fact, the Supreme Court already decided a similar 1971 disqualification bid against a priest elected as mayor. Justices Fernando, Teehankee, Muñoz-Palma, Concepcion Jr., Santos, Fernandez and Guerrero ruled: that an Administrative Code provision banning ministers from public office "should not be given effect."

"The no-religious test clause constitutionally bars the state from disqualifying... an atheist or an agnostic from voting or being voted... disqualify those who have taken up the ministry or the robe of the priest..." the late Justice Claudio Teehankee wrote.

Villanueva's case resembles "a Tennessee statute" which barred ministers from serving as delegates to the State's constitutional convention. The US Supreme Court shredded that prohibition.

The Administrative Code's bar "will not pass constitutional muster," the Jesuit scholar adds.

Is Villanueva's candidacy, meanwhile, shaping up as expected? Not quite, Dr. Maggay reports.

Some Protestant leaders are bothered by "a certain messianism" in his rhetoric, Dr. Maggay further notes. Others are upset "by the triumphalism—a characteristic (displayed by)... Pat Robertson and the Christian Coalition in the US."

This particular stream of American Protestantism influenced theological mind-sets of local churches. It stoked their new militance.

In the past, the Church sometimes, was the "clandestine power behind the throne, or prophetic voice against oppression." It was not a direct player. Villanueva's candidacy departs from that beaten path.

Borders of Villanueva's group are porous, its ideological contours undefined. It's rudimentary organization piggy-backs on churches' infrastructure.

"The figure at its center sounds less and less like a prophet and more and more like a political machine emitting sound bytes," Professor Maggay notes. Nonetheless, "the new player bears watching."

More important are committed men and women "whose dormant energies are being roused, their imagination afire with the vision of a nation rising from the ashes."

They will not forever bear with lesser-evil choices, limited to picking between Barabbas and Barabbas.

***

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Retreat

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I STILL remember the retreat given to us before our high school graduation by an American priest. We went into it full of youthful mischief and came out of it full of aged agitation.

I remember that the priest was a most intense and nervous man. He was a big fellow upon whom the world weighed like a crucifixion. I never saw him smile throughout the course of the three days. Each time he prayed, while kneeling, he would clasp his hands tightly until the blood left them, and look at the crucifix with something resembling sympathetic agony, his lips quivering in prayer. To this day, the recollection of that figure in that pose in the dark fills me with anxiety and foreboding.

Where we expected reflections on the meaning of life, probably with references to youthful love and the effects of raging hormones, we were impaled with visions of the afterlife. Our retreat master impressed upon us the importance of avoiding sin like the plague. The "impressed upon us" was literal. He conjured a vision of hell, to which the impenitent and unforgiven were cast, with such a ferocity it made the hairs of my flesh stand. This wasn't just a general reference to it, this was a guided tour. He dwelled on it. He might have surpassed Dante in his exposition of the landscape of hell. He went on and on and on while we fell deeper into a state of fright, or depression.

He might as well have seen hell. He probably had.

But he scared, well, the hell out of us. He totally ruined the next couple of weeks for me. It wasn't easy watching a movie again, wondering how many sins, mortal and venial, you were committing, particularly along the lines of impure thoughts. In fact, it made even graduation look imperfect, a transient joy in this valley of tears, that would soon crumble in time like a withered flower. The afterlife was all that mattered, and there hellfire awaited the wayward or unsuspecting.

Much later, of course, I learned to take all this in stride, and to think of the priest who gave us a glimpse of terror as either an inspired visionary or someone very dangerously on the verge of a nervous breakdown. I never heard of him again, nor did I wish to. Much later also, I attended in the course of college a number of other retreats that were reflections on the meaning of life, with references to youthful love and the effects of raging hormones. Which redefined my concept of retreats and restored my faith in them.

But whether it was the one I had before high school graduation or the ones that came after, retreats did do something for me. Which was to force me into a contemplation of things that did not naturally fall within the ken of my daily life—though hell is the obvious extreme. High school and college are given only to rushing from one subject to the next, a dizzying blur that leaves little time for self-examination. Or asking yourself what in God's name you're doing with your life. The degree is everything, and the pursuit of it the overriding concern. It was also in college, when I became an activist, that I began to realize that hell wasn't just a place that lured the unsuspecting in the afterlife, it lay in ambush right here in this one. The only thing that made it a little hard to see was that our air-conditioned dormitory was, despite its infernal torments, absolute heaven.

I haven't been to a retreat in ages, but it is a course I would not hesitate to recommend for others. The only reason I haven't been to one is that I have been in constant retreat for most of my life, if by that is meant a life given to contemplation and self-awareness. Writing compels you to. Who was it who said a life unexamined is a life unlived? It's true: A life of rushing from one "gimik" (as the kids put it) to the next, or from one quest for power and wealth (as the adults put it) to the next, is a life unlived, notwithstanding that it seems crammed with action. I think it was Einstein who said people tend to mistake movement for action. Movement is blind, and is often the product of inertia. Action is purposeful, and is the product of self-propulsion.

What an ironic word really, "retreat," presupposing as it does that "advance" is precisely the movement of rushing from one "*gimik*" to the next or from one quest for power or wealth to the next. That "advance" is precisely the frenzy of undertaking, without the need to ask questions all the time about ends and means. Which is pretty much how most of us live their lives. Of course, it's also true that too much contemplation and self-examination can lead to Hamletian indecision. But it's even truer that too much movement can lead to asking only questions about how to dispose of six million Jews, to which the Nazis found the answer in the gas chamber.

One is tempted to say that what we need is a little of both. But in these days of diminished introspection and excessive locomotion, I should think we need to retreat more than advance. Hurtling toward the precipice, like a lemming, may be an advance, but there clearly retreat would be a better course. And I don't know that we aren't hurtling toward the precipice not just as a people—which is patent—but as human beings. It's true: We are exploring the outermost reaches of space but we haven't visited the innermost reaches of the heart. We have plumbed the secrets of the atom but we have not discovered the secrets of getting along with one another. We have made it possible to live long but we have not made it possible to live well.

Joni Mitchell says it best (it was a phrase that leaped to her mind when she opened her window in a hotel room while visiting Hawaii): "They paved paradise to put up a parking lot!"

Time to retreat

Gonzalez's guts

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PARISH priest of Lourdes Parish in Baguio City, Fr. Jose C. Alipio, put it correctly when he said in a recent homily that one reason Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" is taking the Christian world by storm is that while we have gotten used to doing the "Stations of the Cross" during the Lenten season, with the still photos or inert carved figures of biblical characters hung on church walls, the movie makes the Passion come so alive.

I found particularly moving the seemingly inexhaustible flogging of Our Lord, especially since I was very moved by my visit to His dungeon in the Holy Land during Holy Year 2000, and viewing a segment of His pillar in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. At one point, one ends up begging the Roman soldiers to stop the torture with those cruel instruments—*tama na, husto na, patay na siya*. The prolonged scourging scenes moved most people to tears as they cringed at every blow, and His nailing on the cross became an anti-climax.

* * *

I found most impressive the portrayal of the Blessed Mother as a towering pillar of strength for her Son; she is very much the beloved picture of courage in the Pieta depiction by various artists through the ages, in contrast to the emotional portrayal of the Magdalene. In an article, adman Minyong Ordoñez referred to the most powerful scenes—when Jesus' mother began wiping up His spilled blood after the scourging and when she tried to peer into His dungeon through cracks in the pavement. Those are scenes one never encountered in the Stations of the Cross, but after watching the film, one realizes, as Pope John Paul II put it, "It is as it was." This film has left movie viewers around the world stunned and many scenes will doubtless haunt us all for the rest of our lives; hopefully to impact on us beyond a mere physical assault of the senses and make better Christians of us all.

* * *

I admire National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzalez for his courage in opening up on a topic where he doubtless will be chewed over by the Left in the media. He wants some party-list groups disqualified because of what he claims to be the obvious "inter-linking" and even "symbiotic and mutually strengthening" relationship between them and the New People's Army. Gonzalez, in a recent TV show, said that the Countrywide Development Fund of some of these party-list groups have been used to fund NPA activities. He called on the government to examine deeply its policy of "accommodation" of leftist groups, when in fact the NPA, "the biggest private guerrilla army in the country," seeks to influence the outcome of the elections through extortion of "fees" from candidates, all the while that the peace process is going on between the government and the NDF.

* * *

The President directed her national security adviser to substantiate his allegations. This he must do. But for the moment, I cannot help but wonder, too, why Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and the other leaders of the "Legal Left" who have already joined mainstream politics, have not denounced the political extortion by the NPAs, beyond saying that they are not being subjected to such "taxes." In this connection, I quite agree with Gonzalez that admirable is Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, who had the guts to denounce the NPA's extortion. She has filed a bill seeking punishment for such acts. He stressed that Rosales appears to have made her final break with the hard Left and has fully joined the political mainstream

* * *

Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, the leader of the Nationalist People's Coalition in the House, hosted a lunch for GMA in Tarlac City last Tuesday after she attended the Fall of Bataan ritual, where he announced the Cojuangcos' full support for her, even as he did not mention NPC chair emeritus Eduardo Cojuangco's name. What makes that lunch, attended by all the big guns in NPC-dominated Tarlac, significant is that Teodoro is reputed to be Cojuangco's favorite nephew. Juxtapose his support now with the recent defection of Negros NPC Gov. Joseph Marañon and his brother, Rep. Alfredo Marañon, from GMA to Fernando Poe Jr. after she had shown up at the governor's birthday celebration. But few would believe that the Marañons would abandon GMA without the go-signal of Cojuangco.

* * *

To pundits trying to decipher the political significance of these two separate events, there's the temptation to conclude *that namamangka sa dalawang ilog si* Cojuangco. It could also be that like other businessmen, he realizes how disastrous FPJ would be for the economy and the country's image abroad. If one were to ask GMA to read the political tea leaves, however, she'd probably shrug and say she cannot be "introspective," as she once put it to me. But it's easy to guess she's happy over Teodoro's support.

At her birthday celebration I asked Mike Arroyo what happened in Negros. He smiled reticently and didn't want to say much, except to stress that despite the Marañons' defection, 26 mayors remain loyal to her.

* * *

In Lubao, Sen. Noli de Castro, GMA's runningmate and the leading contender in the vice-presidential race, demonstrated his skill for recall when he corrected an item I wrote many weeks ago denouncing the *Kinse anyos* ad. I called on De Castro and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who had both modeled for Napoleon Brandy, to spell out where they stood in the controversy, just like Sen. Kiko Pangilinan. Kabayan explained that he had endorsed Emperador Brandy and not Napoleon. By the way, he's basking in his wide lead over his closest rival and looks every inch a winner, though he's putting on a lot of weight doubtless from all the feeding politicians are subjecting him and GMA.

From 'the abyss of sorrow'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A CONTEMPLATIVE nun (pen name: Sister Carmeli) sent her journal on the suicide of her brother Eugene (his real name) after she read something we wrote that resonated with her pain. With the permission of Sister Carmeli and other persons concerned, we are sharing excerpts from the journal. This, she said, is her way of reaching out. She can be contacted through this column.

This Holy Week, it behooves us to enter into the pain of others so that we may know and understand.

"Today I bow my head before my brother as almost nine years ago, he put the thick yellow nylon cord around his neck and took hold of the beam. I believe God had tears too as He waited for Eugene because He knew more than anybody else how he had suffered in this life. He cried with Eugene, He cried with me. I believe God is a God who walks with us and never abandons us in all the deepest sorrows of our heart. He feels our pain acutely more than we can ever feel it. But in the beginning these thoughts never entered my heart and if they did, I did not believe a single word of it. I was not ready to listen then.

"I talk to my brother again today in the midst of tears. I have somehow anticipated this sadness as his birthday approaches. It was on his sixth memorial day that I finally told him that it was okay for him to have left....

"There is now a glimmer of acceptance in me. Was he right or wrong? There is no answer. It was too dark for my brother to see, he was in too deep a pit to reach out to all those who wanted to clasp his trembling hands. I believe my brother struggled deeply but his gentle fragile little spirit was already shattered to pieces and never had the chance to get healed in this world. He fought hard and hurt us immensely in the process because he needed us to have a glimpse of his pains and the horrendous howling within.

"Broken glasses, broken hearts. We were afraid of him, of his violence. He, on his part, was intensely afraid of life that kept wounding him. Maybe Eugene battled with an undiagnosed mental illness, maybe he had a bipolar problem aggravated by his chemical dependence, maybe he was destroyed by our painful family life beginning with the fatal shooting of our policeman father when he was only 11. Maybe life was just plain cruel to him.

"I, the sister next to him, saw the brother with a fragile heart, the little boy who went to battle alone, the child who wore a heavy armor and never returned. I saw a little boy who turned into an old tired man. He grappled with life's complexities alone as he alienated himself more and more. Eugene took refuge in alcohol and drugs to, maybe, numb himself and pretend that nothing was wrong. But instead of silencing the noise, it trapped him in a long filthy tunnel where no light could reach him. It was the beginning of his many deaths within and the darkest times of our life as a family.

"A series of major losses including the sudden death of his infant first-born son on a bus while they were on their way home from the province, his separation from his wife, his difficulty in finishing his studies, my entering the convent, and finally the news that his wife was already living with another man took a heavy toll on what was left of his desire to survive life. The horrendous howling within him was too much for him to bear. He went to see a shrink and had to take medicines but it was too late. It was time to take off the heavy armor as the warrior chose to quit and walked away filled with deep sorrow for the battles he knew he could not win.

"On July 25, 1999, the tired old man of 28 closed the window... No letter, no goodbye, nothing. I believe that Eugene was ill, that he was emotionally crippled to choose life. No one 'freely' chooses suicide. My brother was free to choose life but he did not, maybe because he was already dead long before he killed himself. We lost him way back before he decided to end his pain.

"I now accept his death. I stand before him holding the nylon cord and bow my head in utter acceptance and surrender... In honoring his life, I honor the battles he fought all by himself and the endless tears he shed that he tried so hard to hide. I bow my head in gratitude to God for giving him to me as my brother. Eugene will always be a part of my life.

"The myth that it could have been prevented had we done more and been there at the right time tormented me immensely. The need to understand and have all the answers had to go gradually before the little piece of light allowed me to hope and firmly believe that there is still life after the death of a loved one through suicide.

"A great part of my brother's short life allowed me to penetrate the abyss of sorrow a human heart can experience. It made me dwell in a land of darkness where I never dared imagine I could enter.

"It's really a mystery—why he was not graced with the same Light that I encountered and continue to encounter, but I know this is just my own thinking. God deals with each of us differently. God's seeming absence in his life does not necessarily imply that he was not there.

"Eugene's life and death invited me to a deeper understanding of my own pilgrimage in life. I started to question deeply what life really means for me and where I am going. I don't believe in suicide but Eugene does not need my opinion on this, he just wants me to continue loving him and being his sister all my life.

"Suicide wounds never heal but the pain changes. There is a distinct difference now but I cannot claim that I am completely out of it. But in my heart I know the sun is beginning to shine again. God is with us today and always."

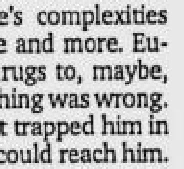
* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

The Filipino passion

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



THIS year, Good Friday falls on Bataan Day, just as Good Friday fell on April 9, 1942, the day the beleaguered Filipino-American forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. From Corregidor came the immortal broadcast, "Bataan has fallen," wrapping, in a sense, the dead and wounded of Bataan in the shroud of the sufferings of Christ. The comparison was unavoidable for Catholic Filipinos, not least because there was an earthquake on Good Friday, 1942, just as there'd been an earthquake when Christ died.

A young officer, Felipe Buencamino III, born to wealth and privilege, educated at the Ateneo de Manila, and a budding journalist, kept a diary during those days. His entry on the eve of surrender is poignant. The evening of April 9 found him in a chance reunion of sorts, of friends:

"It was a reunion alright... but a sad one. We thought we would meet each other in Manila in some victory banquet... not on the night of defeat. But as things turned out... there we were... gathering on the dry bed of a stream... not knowing what the morning had in store for us. Would the Japanese kill us? Would they imprison us? Would they free us? We were discussing those questions throughout the night, I was thinking of escaping, thru the mountains of Bagac via Zambales. But they said... 'Let's stick together... till the end.' We talked of our happy days in Manila... the way we used to run around town... Jai Alai... Casa Mañana... Manila Hotel... drinking, dancing, feasting...

"I guess we were all changed men... and we all agreed that we didn't regret our experience. I don't think any of us were the worse for the hardships we endured. They had made men out of us... and above all... it put our country on the map. It was not all in vain. That's what I was thinking of... when the ground began to shake and the stones in the stream started to roll. It was an earthquake. Was God going to rescue us in the final hour? My heart beat fast... I was sure something would happen... to turn the tide of defeat... but nothing did..."

What followed of course was the Death March. Writing about his harrowing experiences during that march, Buencamino remembers one awful scene:

"Noontime came... but we had no lunch. We just sat under a tree... and stared at each other. I saw a 3-year-old girl... sitting beside a bush... crying. Her face was dusty. Where was her mother? I looked around... and in a nearby bush... there was an awful smell. There lay a rigid body, and the torn clothes and the bayonet thrust on the belly told the story. I felt like bringing the child with me... she looked sick and so hungry... but I left the child... without help. I can't forgive myself. I tried to ease my conscience by saying that thousands of soldiers passed that child also... that many more would see it. I tried to tell myself that the Japanese Red Cross (surely, they probably had a Red Cross) would help the kid. As I walked and walked and walked... the child haunted me. But on the way... there were more such children... some asleep from sheer exhaustion... but still breathing. I carried one out of the curve... because a truck might just rumble over her. Again I felt like bringing the child. I already had her in my arms. But I laid her down alone... under a tree."

These excerpts are from "Memoirs and Diaries of Felipe Buencamino III (1941-1944)," recently privately published, and one of those books that are—it is no exaggeration to say—crucial to read.

Buencamino's book begins in late 1941 and ends in late 1944. It stretches from the confident days of the beginning of the war, to the hopeful days of the end of the Japanese Occupation. In between it encompasses the deterioration in the morale of the Filipino-American troops, their ordeal during the Death March, and the humiliation and horrors of life in Japanese-controlled Manila. The diary has a galaxy of cameo appearances by Generals (Vicente Lim, MacArthur, Capinpin), politicians (Quezon, Osmeña, Romulo), movie stars (Fernando Poe Sr.), writers (Leon Ma. Guerrero, Renato Constantino who carries around a notebook with a pencil sketch of his future wife), and his contemporaries in an up and coming generation (future Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro). There are the famous, the unknown, the rich and the poor: everyone is in his memoirs because he was such a keen observer of what was going on. There are entries in which the author's hunger, or fear, his longings and loves, the race prejudice of some Americans soldiers at Bataan, all combine in unforgettable vignettes and lyrical passages.

Most of all, the book is a facsimile of the original manuscript: a genius of an idea. You feel like you are reading the original itself, complete with scribbles and the handwriting and typing of the author.

The imbeciles who, every year, moan that we shouldn't commemorate defeats such as Bataan, forget that a nation is better measured by its defeats than by its victories. The ancient world and the modern world still look to the defeat of the Spartans at Thermopylae as glorious; we remember Hannibal and the defeat of Carthage; the Germans of today look to their defeat at Stalingrad to find meaning out of World War II; and of course, generations of Americans have looked to the defeat at the Alamo as one of their great national legends. We are fortunate to have the story of Bataan; remembering Bataan makes for a humbler, but nobler country, than if we had a fleeting and vainglorious history of meaningless victories.

"Memoirs and Diaries of Felipe Buencamino III" is exclusively distributed by CopyCat Inc. G/F Mile Long Bldg., Amorsolo cor. Rufino Streets, Makati City. Tel. 810-5801 or 819-0476.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Slippers

YOUNG BLOOD

Nelia G. Balgoa

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I ALWAYS consider myself gifted with a capacity to understand ethnic differences greater than most people. I take pride in abhorring and avoiding any kind of religious or ethnic stereotyping. I strongly believe that a person's action is not necessarily a reflection of the religious organization or ethnic group to which he or she belongs. I am convinced that only by recognizing, understanding and respecting religious and cultural differences can a nation truly achieve peace and harmony. That is the reason why I don't want Christians calling the Muslims "*muklo*" and the minorities "*nitibo*."

Maybe I got this from my college days in the Mindanao State University, where for four years I mingled with people of different cultures. A Muslim guy holding hands with a Christian girl without a care in the world; a Christian chatting with a Maranao in the latter's dialect; a Christian fasting and praying during the holy month of Ramadan—these were common sights. Nowhere had I seen as concretely "unity in diversity" practiced in real life.

I remember that prayer—"harmonized" with the Lord's Prayer—that an imam asked to be prayed by Muslims and Christians together. Fr. Michael de Gigord (a respected and well-loved French missionary who refused to leave the campus for another parish, despite being kidnapped by Moro rebels) described it "the most beautiful music in the world." He would usually ask us to close our eyes and imagine a world where Muslims and Christians play beautiful music together, without the hostility and distrust for each other.

At my graduation, Father Galenzoga, the MSU chaplain and guest speaker, extolled the virtues of tolerance and understanding among all the peoples of the world. He stressed that we all come from the same God, whatever our various concepts of Him. He said if Christians and Muslims looked beyond the religious differences and focused instead on the similarities, we would be living together in peace, treating each other as brothers and sisters. Those words almost moved me to tears.

Nine years after graduation, it has not been easy trying to live by this conviction.

My sister sarcastically describes my conviction as a product of my naiveté or "*katangahan*." Some friends are saying my belief is founded on an illusion. Instead of celebrating religious differences as proof that faith in God can be lived in many ways, they see only the specters of terrorism, the Abu Sayyaf, AFP-MILF war, etc.

I must admit there have been incidents that seem to confirm they're right. In such times, I had to check myself from blurting out "Muslim *kasi*."

One time, I bought slippers for my *yaya* from a stall owned by a Maranao family. The daughter had to go somewhere to look for change. After 15 minutes of waiting, I asked to return the slippers and get my money back. I was surprised when the woman attending the store shouted back, practically directing me to wait for her daughter. And so I waited, my impatience growing with every passing moment. After some time, I offered that I would just come back and pick up the change later. She became furious, accusing me of rushing her. When the daughter arrived and I got my change, I thought the matter was over.

I was wrong. While going through some goods in a nearby stall, I noticed this stern looking man throwing nasty looks at me. All of a sudden the woman-attendant at the stall from where I bought the slippers rushed forward and began hurling verbal obscenities at me. The daughter tagged along and had to be restrained from physically hurting me. People started to come out of their stalls, curious to know what the commotion was all about.

Feeling harassed, I asked for their names so that we could settle the matter before a barangay tanod or police authority. It was then that they raised the issue of religion—me, using my being a Christian to seek the help of a policeman. She accused me of resorting to violence, of feeling important, of discriminating them just because they were Maranaos. Then her husband, the man with the nasty looks, pulled something out of his pocket. To my horror I realized it was a dagger. I was on the verge of tears and starting to panic when a kindly Maranao lady calmly intervened. She ordered the other Maranaos to drag and bring the vendor, her daughter and husband back to their stall.

Numbed with fear, I walked away from the scene. The kindly lady accosted me and apologized in behalf of her neighbors. I nodded without really listening to her. I felt so embarrassed. I was still in shock. Never before had I faced so much hatred. Never before had I been humiliated and hurt as much. The scenes kept playing again and again in my mind and I was asking questions: If she were a Christian, would she have acted in the same way? If we were of the same tribe and religion, would that incident have happened?

After that, I avoided going to the Maranao *tiangge* and dealing with Muslim groups. I kept quiet when I heard people stereotyping Muslims. I closed my mind to issues concerning religious biases and prejudices. And every time I came across a wrongdoing by a Muslim, I did not check myself from thinking: "Muslim *kasi*."

I found out that life could be easier and happier if I went along with the tide of religious prejudices instead of swimming against it as I did not have to spend energy; I did not have to be called naïve.

But the words of Father Michael and Father Bong persisted in my mind. They refused to go away. I proved this one day when my 3-year-old son, at the sight of two Muslims talking in the Maranao dialect, asked: "Mommy, are they bad?" Startled, I replied: "What makes you think they are?"

"Because they are Muslims and all Muslims are bad." My son's answer was more jolting.

Young as he was, his mind was on the verge of being corrupted by a bigotry that he might very well accept as truth, unless someone dared to debunk it. I had to make a choice there and then. Either I rescue my son from religious prejudice or leave his mind wallowing in it for the rest of his life. Kneeling in front of him and looking him straight in the eye, I said: "No, they are not bad. Just because they are Muslims does not necessarily mean that they are bad. Christians like you and me can be bad if we choose to."

I do not know if my son understood me then. But I had to give him that answer. Not because I owed it to myself; or to Muslims and Christians; or to Father Michael, Father Galenzoga and my MSU professors. I had to give him that answer simply because I owed it to him.

Nelia G. Balgoa, 29, is currently teaching literature subjects at the Bukidnon State College, Malaybalay City.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

ELEKSYON 2004

Who offers best chance for change?

TWO months into the election campaign, many have yet to choose the presidential candidate they will vote for. Up to 11 percent of the voters polled by Social Weather Station in its latest nationwide survey are undecided. That's equivalent to 4.4 million votes. If those still inclined to change their preference between now and May 10 are included, the number of the uncommitted becomes much bigger.

Many voters haven't picked someone from a field of five presidential aspirants despite the candidates' ads in the tri-media, sorties to hundreds of towns and cities, and millions of campaign posters, leaflets and streamers.

A number of voters may have been enticed to root for the incumbent because of her inauguration of water pumps in urban poor communities, distribution of Philhealth cards, and experience in office, among others.

Others may support an actor because he is popular and is seen as someone who can help the poor. Some are for a former education secretary because of his intelligence and offer of free quality education in all public primary and secondary schools.

Still others go for a senator because of his strong stance on crime and clear-cut population program, while some endorse an evangelist for his promise of righteous government.

But many choose a presidential candidate not because of his or her platform, but because of the voters' emotional connections to the candidate.

We are called upon to choose only one, flawed, and all too human leader

By Mario Taguiwalo
Pagbabago@Pilipinas

Elections are essentially occasions for collectively deciding future directions. In our country, we decide future directions by selecting who we want to lead us there. It really is not expressed platforms that drive our choice, rather it is perceived tendencies and emotional connections that define our preferences among candidates. We vote our individual choices and these votes are tallied to come up with our collective choice.

Our perfect choice would have been a combination of the best qualities of Gloria, FPJ, Roco, Ping and Bro. Eddie. Unfortunately, we can only choose one from among imperfect choices. In a parliamentary system, the percentage of votes for each one would be regarded as defining the overall composition of our collective choice and the seats in government are then parceled out according to our pattern of choices. In our current system, however, we are called upon to choose only one, flawed, limited, and all too human leader—Eddie Villanueva, or Panfilo Lacson, or Raul Roco, or Fernando Poe Jr., or Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. One or the other, not all of the above.

The outcome of the May 10 elections remains unpredictable. Surveys are indicative but only the final vote tally is definitive. So one should forget about so-called "winnability" because it is a phantom consideration. The winning candidate will be determined by who each one of us votes for, not by whom we think most of us will vote for. It is pretty stupid to base one's choice primarily on the probability that our choice would be chosen by the majority. Do not worry about second-guessing the wisdom of others, just focus on yourself being as wise as possible. Instead of voting for someone you think is most likely to win, you should just go ahead and vote for someone you think should win because only the aggregation of choices like yours, not any survey or expert prediction, is going to be ultimately self-fulfilling.

Temptation

The greatest weakness of our political system is that we grant so much power to a president who is merely a human being, subject to temptation, weakness, limitation, and influence. And the greatest strength of this system is that we place so much hope in the capacity of a human being granted a mandate to govern our nation to rise above himself/herself and lead with wisdom, purpose, vision and righteousness.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

As one presidential candidate had cryptically said, "Man (or woman) change." Yes, people do change. The stupid can become wise; the merely calculating can become principled; the arrogant can be humbled; the ruthless can become caring; and the naive can become astute. Of course, change can also go the wrong way. The novice can go from blunder to blunder; the compromiser can become unremittingly corrupt; the large ego can just grow larger and larger to self-destruction; the iron hand can be devastating to the innocent; or the righteous can harden into intolerant fanaticism.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The probability that whoever we elect as president can change—for the better or worse—is the source of so much of the hope and fear that attends our choice.

Many weeks into the campaign, we voters assess the state of our decision-making. Do we know more about our choices for president? Do we know enough to make a well-informed choice? Can we trust our knowledge and feelings to bring us to write the name of the best candidate on the ballot?

Pagbabago@Pilipinas, as a group dedicated to achieving real and substantive change in our country, has carefully studied responses of the presidential candidates to the most important questions of the nation. We have also considered the actions, occasional pronouncements, reported campaign activities, and media projection of each candidate. Based on these , this is our answer to the question: *which of the presidential candidates offer the best chance for real change?*

All five candidates are severely constrained by their respective circumstances that limit their will and capacity for real change. The prospects for real change depend greatly on how the elected president is affected by the campaign, his or her victory and the key people who articulate and clarify these matters to their principal.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is very much a captive of the prevailing vested interests to make real changes of enduring substance. She will probably win only on the basis of support from these vested interests. Her stand on population, pork barrel, pardon for Erap, revenue raising, and power sector policies suggests her calculated response to issues she knows have their respective power blocs. If, despite previous experience and current behavior, she does make changes for the good of the country even when opposed by the power blocs that support her, it would constitute a great and wonderful reversal at the level of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus.

Some say that a decisive victory will strengthen her hand in undertaking authentic reform. Others say a tight victory will convince her to do better with her own mandate. Still others say that a victory, under whatever circumstances, will give Gloria a popular mandate she can truly call her own and she can then govern under her best light. One thing is sure. Going by the campaign rhetoric of her opponents, a Gloria victory is unlikely to be exempted from credible accusations that the elections were "bought" with the people's own money.

As an incumbent running for president, Gloria has not demonstrated the required level of restraint to prevent perceptions of undue use of her position for self-serving political ends (the prevention of which one might regard as the true spirit of the constitutional prohibition against presidents running for re-election). Instead, her administration has sought refuge in legal defenses, which might not be enough to remove the bad taste in the mouth. Such potential loss of moral authority in being truly deserving to be elected can spell further divisiveness after the elections.

The nagging question for all is this: if she has not done what you expected and hoped she would do in the past three years, what makes you think she can do these in the next six years? Unfortunately, as the incumbent, she is the only one for whom this question is applicable. And she should be a fair subject of such a question because so much more is available to her to show us what she can do. To whom much is given, much is demanded. And as she is running on the basis of experience, voters have the right to judge her on the fruits of that experience rather than on the relative merit (or lack thereof) of her competitors. To excuse Gloria's lapses because the alternatives to her may be inadequate is a kind of logic in which the bad only crowds out the worse and will not allow the country to choose the best.

Fernando Poe Jr.

Fernando Poe Jr. simply does not have the essential knowledge, skills and tools to enable him to translate into reality his general intentions, his apparent empathy for common people and his considerable communications capabilities. So many weeks in the public eye as candidate, he has remained at the level of one-line cliches, scripted sound bites, and mere trappings and posturing of what his handlers think is the image of a serious responsible leader. His refusal to engage in any substantive public give-and-take devoted to issues of public interest already amounts to stonewalling legitimate demands by the media to enable them to provide people concrete details of his views, opinions and preferences as potential president.

The single qualification that Poe claims, that of a successful movie actor-director-producer and giant in the local movie industry, does not give us any confidence. Philippine movies are in decline in terms of the number being produced, profitability and quality. Poe is not credible as a savior of our nation when he clearly has not been a savior of the very industry that spawned his celebrity.

In short, Poe has simply not provided enough information to reasonably guide the voters in making their choice. This is extremely disturbing. We want to know as much as we can about the views of all the candidates, and the more detailed and specific the views are, the more informative they are about where the candidate might bring us if we give him or her the power to do so. Poe is courting potential disaster if he wins on the basis of such widespread ignorance of his real views and stand on various issues. A political campaign should allow us to confront our differences as a nation so that the elections become a real opportunity to resolve those differences peacefully. A country becomes truly unified after elections, when it votes on the basis of information generated by a truly substantive, even if divisive, campaign.

A victory by Poe, in the midst of widespread ignorance of his real views, can only mean that his election will usher in a more explosive divisiveness around his real directions, which he has failed to explain during his campaign, but which he will then have to reveal to a surprised and maybe even resistant nation. Poe needs to recognize that he can keep some people in the dark all of the time, and he can keep all the people in the dark some of the time, but he cannot keep all the people in the dark all of the time. The worst time for him to learn this lesson is when he is in Malacañang confronting the angry millions who will feel betrayed once they finally realize what their elected president really stands for.

ILLUSTRATION BY GILBERT DAROY

Raul Roco

Raul Roco challenges our credulity and imagination about the possibilities of real change in our country. He has taken great pains—resigning early from the cabinet, criticizing many policies of the administration—to define himself as different from Gloria. It thus seems strange to us that Roco is less emphatic and definitive about some "litmus test" issues such as a pardon for Erap, pork barrel, and revenue measures. We find Roco's stand on these issues to be quite similar to Gloria's.

This suggests Roco's underlying similarity with Gloria in terms of their political approach to some power blocs and vested interests, which is not to confront but to accommodate. His only real promise to stop corruption is that he will not be corrupt. We find this promise inferior to Lacson's threat of putting fear into the hearts of the corrupt.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Similar to the pitch of Villanueva, Roco points out to all decent Filipinos that they can make decency, morality and principle prevail in government if they simply insist that these values govern their choice.

In a sense, we find Roco offering an alternative to Gloria only in that he might be a less crass political operator and more witty articulator of compromise, just as Gloria was an alternative to Erap only in that she is much more hard working and less blatant about the workings of the underbelly of her administration. Roco's promise of 100-percent free quality elementary and high school education is impossible to deliver and sustain without high economic growth, strong revenue collection, significant reduction in leakages in public spending and a radically more efficient civil service.

By merely talking about the promise, without pointing out the tough choices necessary to make such promise real, Roco resorts to the old habits of politicos who want us to believe they can turn water into wine without the "miracle": of the people's hard work.

Panfilo Lacson

Panfilo Lacson's slogan—*Stop Kurakot, Huwag Matakot*—captures the two most evocative emotional themes of his candidacy, i.e., people's disgust with corruption and people's fear of the powerful. He cultivates the style and image of a no-nonsense, straight-talking, quick-acting leader who will put grafters in jail, cut through red tape, make firm decisions and gain people's confidence by putting everything in order. His response to the Erap pardon question is instructive—if proof is overwhelming, no pardon; if proof is weak, then pardon is appropriate as this is merely political persecution. Who decides if proof is overwhelming or weak? Presumably Lacson himself. He is indeed comfortable with being policeman, prosecutor, judge and jailer, and as president he may as well be all these. That is the source of the hope he offers and of the fears he generates.

Lacson is probably the only one among the five candidates who has weighed in clearly, strongly and definitely on the family planning and population issue, going as far as suggesting a P2-billion allocation from Philhealth reserves to procure and provide free contraceptives and to convince couples to adopt an explicit two-children policy. No one, not even the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, can pressure Lacson as he is not afraid to do what he thinks is right.

Those who would choose to vote for him might as well recognize that they agree with Lacson's substantive positions so much that they are willing to tolerate some shortcuts in realizing those positions. We can only hope and pray that in a Lacson presidency most of us (including those who may not have voted for him) will agree with most of what he decides is right. Otherwise, active and principled opposition in a Lacson presidency may not be a healthy option.

Some already believe that the shortcuts that Lacson might have to take are already happening anyway because of corruption, inefficiency and the sheer pressure that overwhelming numbers impose on limited resources. In a sense, Lacson offers himself as a crisis manager for a nation already deep in serious crisis. Desperate times require desperate measures. Voters will need to decide what kind of times they live in so that a message like Ping's can be placed in the right perspective.

Eddie Villanueva

Eddie Villanueva is our Mang Tasyo goes to Malacañang. Like Poe, his real public life began with the campaign period. Also like Poe, he comes to the political table with a record of success in another field, this time in the field of evangelism, which may be considered a growth industry compared with a sinking industry like Philippine movies. Yet no one is suggesting that Villanueva does not have the knowledge, skills or tools necessary to govern. In fact, many recognize the analytical sense of his diagnosis of what ails the nation and his ability to communicate complex issues in ways understandable to common people.

In one sense, Villanueva is a true alternative to Gloria, even more than Roco. He has devoted himself to issues of national salvation and revival not just in spiritual terms, but also in social and economic dimensions. Yet he is untainted by compromise with power blocs and vested interests. He has reached a wide population of concerned Filipinos yet he has not relied on the traditional network of patronage politics. In this sense, he is a true outsider to the political process and more of a fresh option than Poe. We find his positions on issues from population and raising revenues to economic policy reasonable.

The most troubling part of Villanueva's candidacy is not about what are there as about what are not there. Will a popular mandate alone grant President Villanueva the means to get our political system to solve our very serious problems? How will he get his appointment through the Commission on Appointments? How will he get vital and urgent legislation through a Congress dominated by people so very different from him? How will he get our civil service moving out of its inertia and ennui?

One may claim that, in fact, an electoral victory for Villanueva would by itself send a powerful message to our politicians and civil servants that they better heed this message from above. Yet we know that people respond not only to the promise of heaven but also to the fear of hell in ways that are difficult to predict or make coherent.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

TRANSMISSION BY VSAT

Doubt cast on vote count tech

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Commission on Elections officials in Negros Occidental Tuesday said they were apprehensive that the immediate transmission to Manila of the May 10 election returns via the "Very Small Aperture Terminals" (VSAT) could cause some discrepancies that could put their credibility in question.

The concern was raised Tuesday during an election dry run held at La Consolacion College in this city attended by Negros Occidental election officers and representatives of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting.

During the dry run, a demonstration on the use of the VSAT was conducted.

Provincial Election Officer Marsha Cordero said there are 32 VSATs allocated for Negros Occidental so that election returns can be transmitted immediately from every town and city in the province to where the votes would be counted.

However, she said the Comelec officers in Negros Occidental were concerned that the transmitted returns might have discrepancies with the results of the official canvass.

This could happen, she said, because the tally of returns could have some errors that are corrected during the canvass.

She said the errors could be made in the encoding of figures. Problems could be encountered in the unscrambling of encrypted data transmitted via the VSAT, she added.

Cordero added that the Comelec officers in Negros Occidental do not like the added burden of having to ensure the transmission of returns by VSAT as they have to concentrate on the official canvass of votes.

"They are concerned that if the results of the immediate transmission of returns do not tally with the local canvass and the Namfrel (National Movement for Free Elections) count, suspicions will be raised on their credibility," she said.

Felizardo de la Merced, who has the task of implementing the VSAT program, said the VSAT transmission has three levels of security.

First, he said, the transmission of election returns will be made through a private network, making the possibility of penetration nil. Second, passwords would also be provided to those sending the data and lastly, the data sent would be encrypted, he said.

But critics of the aborted automated counting plan of the Comelec said there was no guarantee that the results would not be tampered with by computers.

The critics said there are also no fool-proof computer programs that would ensure the sanctity of the ballot under the design of the aborted automated counting plan.

The automated counting program was ruled highly disadvantageous to the government by the Supreme Court which decided to declare it void.

Poll exec fears more bloodshed in Batangas

BATANGAS CITY—Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garciliano expressed pessimism on the latest wave of killings in the city, saying the recent killing of five people who were known supporters of mayor Eduardo Dimacuha makes the city a candidate for the list of places with "highly alarming" cases of election-related violence.

"The Comelec is still investigating whether we would put Batangas City under Comelec control. That means, if the result of the investigation proves that the city is really at high risk, it would be under our immediate concern," Garciliano said.

He said that being under Comelec control means that all election-related activities in the city will be under their control, with coordination from the Army and the police.

"The city is already in the hot spot category. The recent killing of five men only put it under the highly alarming category," Garciliano said.

He was in Lipa City on Tuesday to oversee the manual election field test of the Comelec.

Raids

On Friday morning, the homes of known family members and supporters of Dimacuha were raided by the Mimaropa police who theorized that they were coddling the suspect in the Juvy Magsino slay.

But the police didn't find the suspect or any unlicensed firearms inside the homes of those they raided.

That night, businessman Geronimo Exconde, a known Dimacuha supporter whose house in Barangay Sta. Clara here was among those raided, was abducted by about 20 armed men from his home.

The armed men also took three of his bodyguards, and one male assistant.

Their corpses were found some 30 meters below the Bitukang Manok Bridge in Daang Ibaan, Barangay Sabang, Ibaan town at 6 a.m. the following day.

Tortured

The five bodies, whose heads were covered with masking tapes with their hands tied behind their backs, had more than 15 stab wounds in the chest and back.

In Dimacuha's one-page statement, he said "a gubernatorial candidate has repeatedly asked and even pressured him and other town mayors of the second district of Batangas to support his candidacy."

The mayor also said that when he and the other town mayors refused, the said gubernatorial candidate resorted to falsely maligning him before the electorate of the city.

The gubernatorial candidate even publicly remarked that he would make the Dimacuhas suffer, and that even if mayor Dimacuha wins the election, he will make sure that he will not sit for another term.

The mayor also said that the timing of the searches were questionable, and smacked clear of political harassment. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

UNCONVENTIONAL

JESS YUSON/PDI PHOTO

Senatorial candidate Carlos Padilla (right) walks in the middle of the streets of Daet, Camarines Norte holding a microphone while an aide pushes along a speaker in a rare, unconventional way of campaigning during a recent sortie in the province.

Cop relieved for doing an FPJ in Butuan

BUTUAN CITY—For humiliating and berating a female ABS-CBN reporter in public, a police executive here was sacked.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police director on Tuesday, said he ordered the immediate relief of deputy city police director Supt. Segundino Lim "for maltreating media men inside a police camp."

"Lim's acts constitute conduct unbecoming of a police officer," Olario said.

On Tuesday morning, Grace Salado, a reporter of ABS-CBN Butuan, was interviewing city police director Senior Supt. Edgar Agustin and other police officials on camera over alleged abuses committed by the police in their campaign against prostitution.

As the interview was about to end, an irate Lim, who was seated across Agustin, suddenly stood up and berated the television journalist to the surprise of other people around them.

"You in the media (are) very biased against the police," Lim told Salado in a raised voice.

Lim, who was former regional police spokesperson, lamented that the police are always being blamed for the rising criminality in the city.

Salado was initially dumbfounded but when she regained composure, reasoned out that she has been consistently fair and balanced on her reporting involving the police.

But Lim would not listen and continued to lash out at the hapless reporter.

A teary-eyed Salado tried hard to reason out but her voice was drowned by the police officer's pitch.

Then Lim suddenly walked away.

Salado later told the INQUIRER she did not expect such an attitude from a respectable police official.

"He's very unprofessional," she said while apparently holding back her tears.

Salado vowed to pursue charges against Lim to teach the police officer a lesson. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NPAs demand P650,000 from bet in Isabela

ILAGAN, Isabela—A New People's Army unit operating in this province has asked for P650,000 in permit-to-campaign (PTC) fee and four guns from former Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano III before he could campaign in areas the rebels claim to control in northern Isabela.

Albano III, son of former Isabela congressman and now Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr., is running for representative of the province's first district.

He said he received a letter containing the demand while he was campaigning in Barangay San Vicente in Ilagan town on Sunday night.

Albano said he was surprised to receive the letter because when he was mayor for three terms in Cabagan town and representative from 1998 to 2001, he never received a letter from the NPA demanding money from him.

The letter supposedly came from the NPA's Reynaldo Pinon Front and signed by its spokesman, one Ka Amado Amianan.

Albano said the rebels were also asking for an M-203 rifle, an M-16 Armalite rifle, an M-14 Armalite rifle, a .45 cal. gun and bullets.

He said the NPA asked him to comply with the demand in two weeks in exchange for access to "rebel-controlled" villages in the towns of Ilagan, Tumauini, Delfin Albano, San Pablo, Sta. Maria, Santo Tomas, Maconacon, Divilacan and Palanan.

Albano said he was verifying if the letter was indeed sent by the NPA.

"I have to verify the authenticity of the letter, probably through the help of the Army and the police. Who knows, those who sent this letter may just be plain bandits out to extort money from me," he said.

He said he would not give in to the rebels' demands.

Albano said he would ask former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III, the government's chief peace negotiator, to clarify with officials of the National Democratic Front and the Communist Party of the Philippines if they allow the collection of PTCs.

But he said he is now worried about his safety following his decision to ignore the rebels' demand.

In other parts of the country, the rebels have launched attacks on candidates who refused to pay the campaign fees and stopped the campaign of other candidates. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rebs scare bets who won't pay

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—For ignoring its "no permit no campaign policy," suspected communist rebels lobbed a hand grenade Tuesday at the house of a provincial board member and a town mayor in Barangay Basak, Zamboanguita town, Negros Oriental.

No one was reported hurt but the explosion damaged the Isuzu Trooper and a wall in the house of Zamboanguita Mayor Lourdes Adanza and husband Marcelo, who is board member representing the third district.

The New People's Army-Southeast Negros said the attack was a "calculated move to punish" the couple for their adamant refusal to observe its no permit no campaign policy, among others.

CHURCH AWARD

PHOTO FROM BUHAY PARTY LIST

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal confers to Christian Señeres, representative of the Buhay party-list group, the Blessed Pedro Calungsod medal for his group's commitment to the fight against abortion and artificial contraception.

Group issues list of beneficiaries of pork barrel to counter 'Red' tag

BAGUIO CITY—The party-list group Bayan Muna has released its list of pork barrel beneficiaries in poverty-stricken areas of the Cordillera to dispute government allegations that it has been financing underground rebel operations.

The party-list group listed 673 projects worth P480 million that it helped sponsor in provinces nationwide between August 2001 and December 2003, said Beverly Longid, a Bayan Muna nominee.

She said Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and resigned legislators Crispin Belran and Liza Maza contributed to 467 "hard-impact" projects worth P352 million and 206 "soft" projects worth P127 million.

Bayan Muna's projects had always been "an open book," but the party's chief critic, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, "never took the time to even pore through Congress' books," Longid said.

She said Gonzales' attacks on Bayan Muna confirmed the military propaganda that that the party-list group had been financing rebel groups using the countryside development fund (CDF).

But according to the party's project registry, most of its CDF money was used in infrastructure projects like the P2.3-million multi-purpose building in Barangay Gabriela Silang in Baguio City. It also helped build similar facilities for poor villages in Benguet.

Bayan Muna also funneled in P10 million, alongside a CDF grant offered by Sen. Francisco Pangilinan, that helped concrete the Dantay-Dagada road in Mt. Province. It also spent P1 million in putting up a community radio station in Sagada, Mt. Province.

The party also helped rehabilitate roads and flood control projects in the towns of Besao and Bontoc, also in Mt. Province, a P350,000-flood control project in Nambaan vilage, a P350,000-deep well for the villages of Dasao and Basao, and an P180,000-post harvest facility for Cabaruan town, all in Kalinga. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mayoral bet disqualified by poll body

THE COMMISSION on Elections has disqualified a candidate for mayor of Camaligan town in Camarines Sur for having been convicted of criminal cases involving moral turpitude.

The Comelec handed down the decision to disqualify Hercelina Eduardo in a resolution approved unanimously by all the election body's commissioners.

Eduardo is running under the party of presidential candidate Raul Roco.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

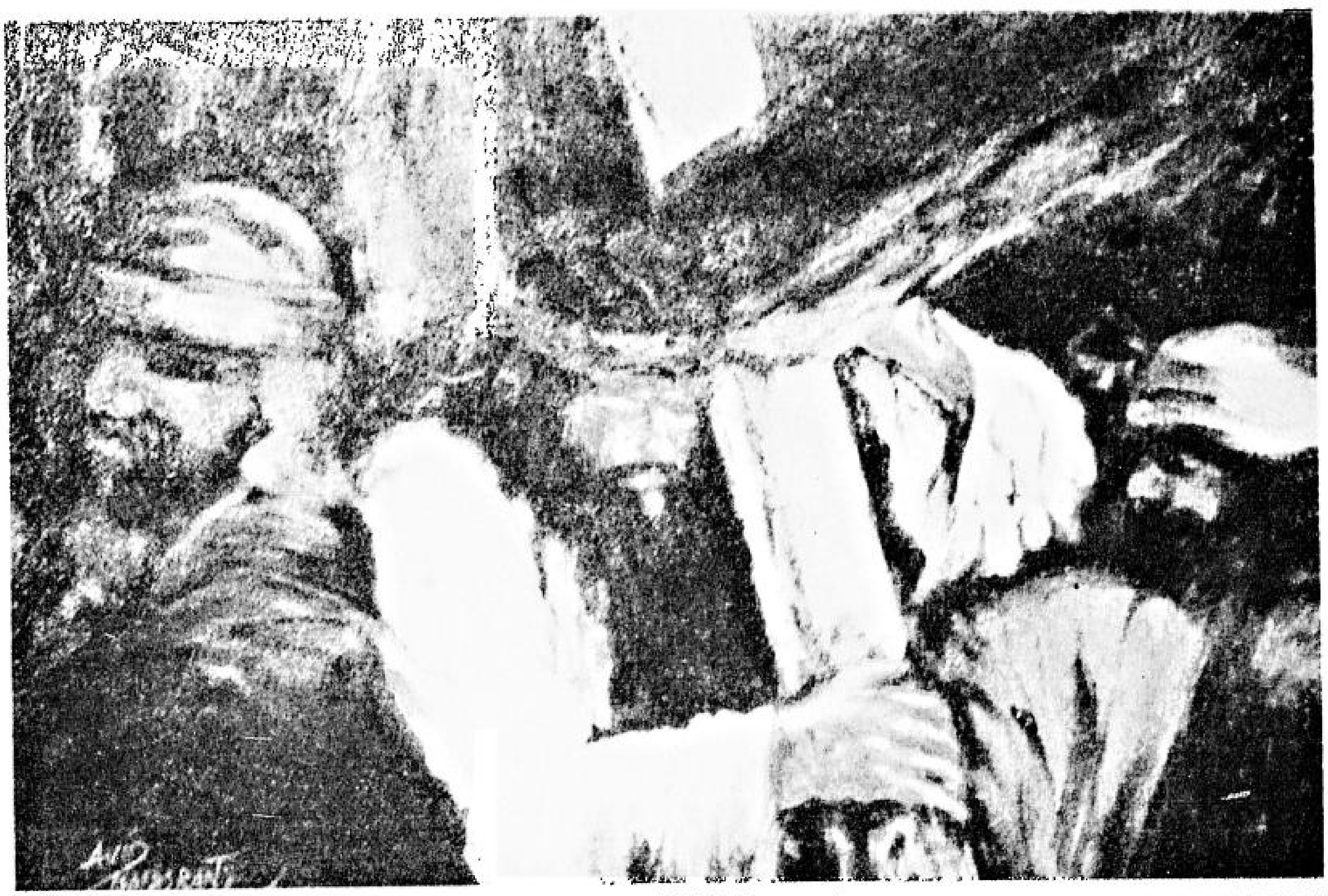
Movie inspires art exhibit in Bicol

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Legazpi City

MEL GIBSON's controversial and phenomenal film, the "Passion of the Christ," has inspired four Bicolano artists—three painters and a sculptor that for the first time in this City of Smile, these artists from Buhi, Camarines Sur have exhibited their masterpieces, which are all about the Passion of Christ and those people closest to Him, at the Legazpi City Museum.

According to the artists, the art exhibit, which will run through the whole month of April, is not entirely for the reason that it's Lenten Season, but also for the inspiration they got from the Passion of Christ in the Bible and from the movie, which, for many Biblical scholars, conveys anti-Semitic theme.

So, goes the title of their show, "Passion of Christ."



ONE OF the paintings drawn from inspiration given by the controversial Mel Gibson movie. PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Passion

Bicolano artists David Temperante, 60, Francisco Quirante, 59, Willy Macaso, 54, and Marte Miranda, 62, said it was such a miracle that they were able to materialize the exhibit. For them, to band together for one noble passion of exhibiting their works is, they said, already a miracle.

"Indeed God has a will. Who would ever think that, for the first time, we are going to display and show to the people our masterpieces about our Savior, which, honestly, we have just kept for a long time. It is only this time that the four of us have displayed our works about Christ," said Miranda, a known sculptor in the country.

In the exhibit, he featured his charcoal Crete sculpture about Christ.

Temperante, a former comic illustrator and buddy of Mars Ravelo and Pablo Gomez in Pinoy Komiks in the late '60s, added, "It's a seldom thing to happen that all of us have but one passion in doing this regardless of people will buy it or not. What matters most is that we were able to please them out of our love and appreciation of Jesus."

In some ways, he said, they believe that they are going to make the people of Legazpi very happy and more inspired this Lenten season. "That's our big promise."

He added that upon watching the movie of Gibson's celebrated film, it took him only one week to finish three of the paintings now on display in the city museum.

The Bible

Temperante's former colleague in Middle East as a graphic artist and now a full-time painter, Macaso, believed that displaying his painting about Christ is such a very enlightening moment from him after a series of exhibits, which unveils Jesus as Son of Man.

"Honestly, Bible is one of my inspirations in painting. I just don't know that once I started thinking of it, it becomes spontaneous for me to paint the greatest Man on Earth. I became enlightened. It's weird yet a very fulfilling feeling. Now I think I've done another milestone in my life as an artist because of this exhibit."

Meanwhile, Quirante revealed to the INQUIRER that his passion to paint Christ started from his dream that one day he would be exhibiting all his works about Christ wherein spectators would be magnified by their illuminating aura. But he added that one of the moments that inspired him to do this was when he got seriously ill. "My illness then was very serious but I prayed hard that if ever I got well, I would serve Him through my paintings, and this is now happening."

Among the four, it is only Quirante who is not convinced by Gibson's movie, but that did not prevent him from joining his friends in unfurling their passion for Christ. "Well, it's just a movie, yet like us, he (Gibson) has his own way to show his passion for Christ. He's an artist like us, though."

Masterpieces

The four artists' works of art feature the 14 Stations of the Cross, Last Supper, and Healing of the Lepers (by Quirante); Casting of the Stone on Mary Magdalene, Carrying of the Cross, and Mary Magdalene (by Temperante); sculptors featuring the different faces of Jesus, including His death and sufferings (by Miranda); and paintings about the early and public ministry life of Jesus (by Macaso).

All of them were one in saying that they made their artworks for the sake of expression not to make an impression.

"We want to give the people a different kind of entertainment this Lenten season," they said.

HONORIO Domens performing his duties in church.

77-yr-old man devotes single life to Church

By Emir Emano Gamis
Irosin, Sorsogon

FOR Honorio Domens, 77, the Lenten season is just like any other; the Holy Week like any other week; and all days are the same—they are spent serving God and the Church, that is.

Tiyo Norio, as he is fondly called in Irosin, Sorsogon, has spent 32 years of his life serving the Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in the town. He may be the oldest living *sacristan mayor* (chief altar boy) in the whole diocese of Sorsogon.

No fading

Born on May 25, 1927, he said he has been a sacristan since he was in Grade 6 in Masbate, working with the late Msgr. Vicente Romano, his relative.

He was 45 when he went to Irosin in 1972 to work full time in the church, again under Romano, who was also transferred there.

"We were together in the evacuation (area) during the war, (with) my father, all of us. I already knew how to be a sacristan then," he said.

He remembers the Japanese people having made friends with some of the children, although they were "strict" and forced them to take Niponggo classes. He can still sing Japanese songs as a result.

"I am old but there's no fading," Tiyo Norio said of himself.

Studies

Sometime in 1953, he entered the Our Lady of Peñafrancia Seminary in Sorsogon, but he was forced to stop his studies after he contracted bronchitis.

In 1954, he took up dentistry at the University of the East in Manila but failed to finish the course because of financial constraints. "I only lacked the clinical requirements; it would have been graduation after that. It was costly," he said.

Unable to finish his studies, and juggling his church work in-between other preoccupations, Tiyo Norio decided to devote his time to being a *sacristan* again.

His father, then an auditor in Masbate, had urged him to work in the government. "I did not like it," he said.

From Romano to Fr. Gerry del Prado today, Tiyo Norio has worked with six parish priests.

"I have in mind also serving the church; instead of working outside, I chose it ... This is what my mind dictated me (to do)," he explained.

No regrets

After so many years in his work, Tiyo Norio said he has no regrets. "Yes, I enjoy. I enjoy, instead of working outside, it's much better here ... I admire my work, I have no regrets," he said.

He stays at the convent.

Tiyo Norio, who is well-versed in English and claims to read the INQUIRER every day, lamented the "many mistakes and corruption" in the government.

Priests work for revival of Bicol's 'Pasyon'

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Legazpi City

THE "BIKOL Pasyon" is slowly dying as a Lenten tradition in the region. Only a few elderly people in the villages still sing the narrative poem about the life of Jesus Christ as they lament that today's generation has taken this important part of Bicol culture and religion for granted.

Some Bicolano priests, though, are pushing for its revival.

Msgr. Honesto Moraleda of the Saint Jude Church in Legazpi City notes that "the most alluring and melodious translation of the Passion in the country" has lost its prominence and vitality.

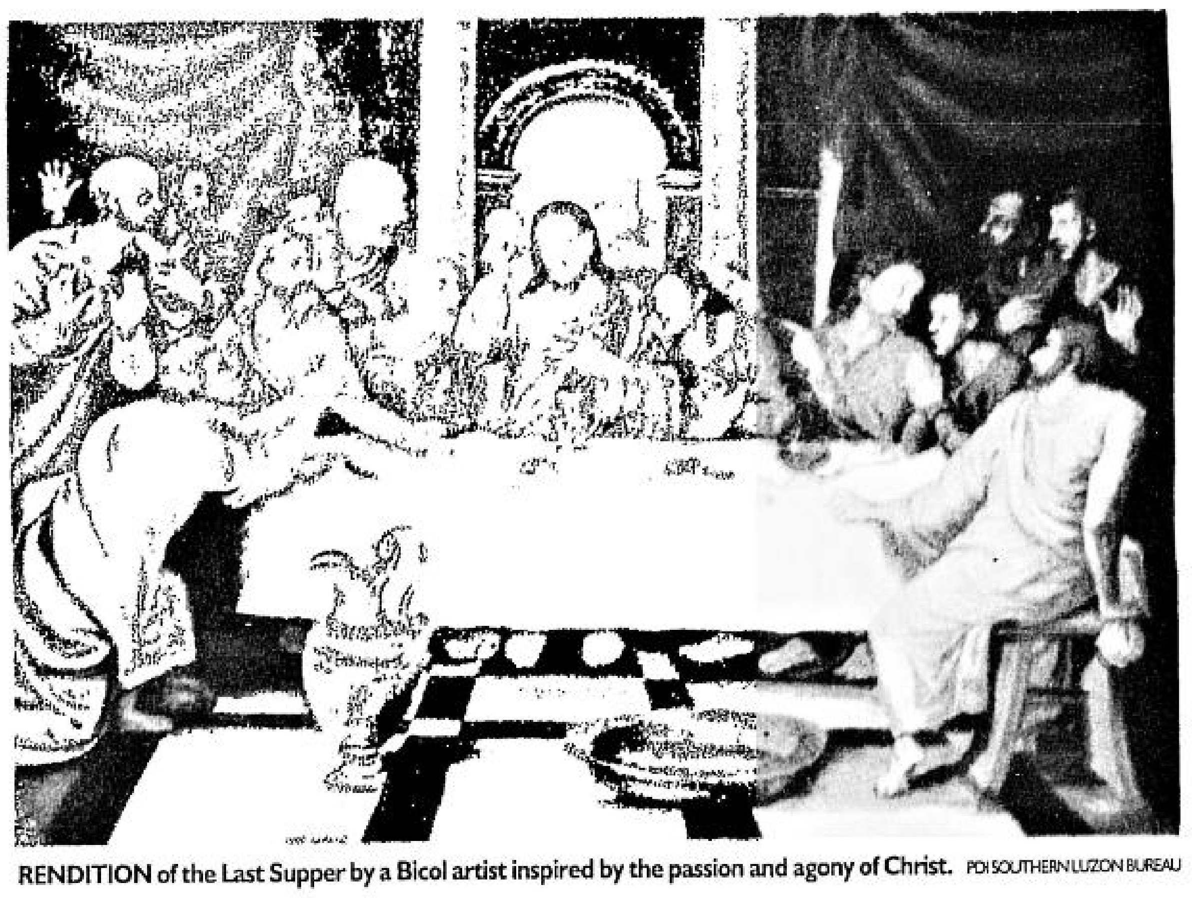
"It is [no longer] performed with full passion and meaning, but just for the sake of tradition and doing it," Moraleda says, adding that the family is no longer directly involved in its performance. It has become commercialized since the family has to pay three to four persons to perform the "Pasyon" and *pabasa*.

"How can you deeply understand it if you are not with the old folk in performing it? How can you value the solemnity of the Holy week? How can you possibly feel the real passion of Jesus Christ if that is the scenario? Of course, its essence and solemn beauty is overwhelmingly defeated," Moraleda says.

Jesus' life

The Spaniards brought the "Pasyon" to Bicol on Oct. 4, 1866. Its authorship was attributed to Tranquilino Hernandez, a native of Polangui, Albay, who claimed to have translated it from the Tagalog "Pasyon."

The Bikol Pasyon, titled "An Casaysayan Can Mahal na Pasion ni Jesucristo Cagurangnanta na Sucat Ipaglaad nin Puso nin siisay man na Magbasa" (The Story of the Holy Passion of Jesus Christ Our Lord which Ought to Inflame the Hearts of Anyone who Reads It), has been regarded as the "only sacred literary form that spans the last two centuries of Spanish rule in the country, [that is] surviving," Moraleda says.



RENDITION of the Last Supper by a Bicol artist inspired by the passion and agony of Christ. PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Revival

Bicol priests and biblical scholars have long been looking at reviving the Bikol Pasyon to preserve it as the local residents' version of the Bible and to make the present generation aware of its devotional importance.

"It would be more interesting if youngsters are given the chance to perform it publicly. Let's say, starting with the seminarians. I think people will be charmed to witness the unconventional way of performing the Bicol Pasyon," Moraleda says.

The Spaniards brought the 'Pasyon' to Bicol on Oct. 4, 1866

Rev. Fr. Jovic Lobrigo of the Albay Parish agrees.

"In essence, the Pasyon is the popularization of the Gospel as it is written in the Bible, so therefore its reflection must be on real practice, not on the food and fiesta celebration, or just being a spectator to paid old folk who keep the burden of the passion of Christ through reading and chanting," Lobrigo urges.

Involving the youth in performing the "Pasyon" would pave the way for its renaissance, both as a substitute for the Bible among the local folk and as an art, as it has been considered a part of folk literature.

Revisions

But Odelia Espinas, a retired literature and social science professor of the Bicol University's College of Arts and Sciences and author of "Fictional Elements in the Bicol Pasyon," says there is a need to revise, if not totally change, most of the misinterpretations about the practice of the Bicol Pasyon.

"For a long time now, the folk have been left to content themselves with the Pasyon, believing that it is the Bible itself. In the light of the findings of this study, it is expected that literati be constituted to re-study the Pasyon and purge it of elements that the Bible does not reflect," she says.

She notes that the Bikol Pasyon at present has schematic errors, misrepresentations, legend, hyperbolic descriptions, mythical allusions, narration inconsistencies, and a hodgepodge of incidents that should be harmonized with biblical accounts.

"My research study has proven that it has to be rewritten whenever an attempt to revive it for today's generation, inasmuch as the Pasyon has not only become a Lenten tradition but also because it will continue to be the popular source of biblical knowledge to them," says Espinas, the wife of the late Bicolano historian Merito Espinas.

This, she says, will revive a cultural tradition and ensure that the people will have the opportunity to be instructed correctly on their Christian faith.

She points out the schematic error and misrepresentation of the accounts of Genesis in the Bible, legends and elements alien to the Bible, misrepresentations of the incarnation of Christ, Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Marriage at Cana and Mary Magdalene.

Espinas says there are also the hyperbolic description of Joseph and the mythical allusion about Judas Iscariot, his betrayal and affair with his mother.

If ever, she adds, the revised edition should be careful in using educated Bicol orthography. "Vulgarisms should be avoided," she stresses.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Movie inspires art exhibit in Bicol

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Legazpi City

MEL GIBSON's controversial and phenomenal film, the "Passion of the Christ," has inspired four Bicolano artists—three painters and a sculptor that for the first time in this City of Smile, these artists from Buhi, Camarines Sur have exhibited their masterpieces, which are all about the Passion of Christ and those people closest to Him, at the Legazpi City Museum.

According to the artists, the art exhibit, which will run through the whole month of April, is not entirely for the reason that it's Lenten Season, but also for the inspiration they got from the Passion of Christ in the Bible and from the movie which, for many Biblical scholars conveys anti-Semitic theme.

So, goes the title of their show Passion of Christ.

Passion

Bicolano artists David Temperante, 60, Francisco Quirante, 59, Willy Macaso, 54, and Mario Miranda, 62, said it was such a miracle that they were able to materialize the exhibit. For them, [illegible] band together for one noble pa[illegible] of exhibiting their works [illegible] they said, already [illegible] "Indeed God has [illegible] wi[illegible] Wh[illegible] would ev[illegible] think that, for the first time, we [illegible] going to display and [illegible] the people our maste[illegible] [illegible] bou[illegible] Sav[illegible]

[illegible] lons in [illegible] tha[illegible] [illegible] emp[illegible] [illegible] of Mar[illegible] [illegible] nd Pal[illegible] [illegible] Ko[illegible]

[illegible] '60s added. "It [illegible] dom thing to happen that all of [illegible] have but one passion in doing this [illegible]gardless of people will buy it [illegible] What matter most [illegible] that we [illegible] able to please them [illegible] of our [illegible] ove [illegible] appre[illegible] [illegible] su[illegible]

In some way, [illegible] that they a[illegible] goi[illegible] [illegible]ake [illegible] people of Legazpi [illegible]appy [illegible] inspired th[illegible] [illegible] season. "That's our big promise."

He added that upon watching the movie of Gibson's celebrated film, it took him only one week to finish three of the paintings now on display in the city museum.

The Bible

Temperante's former colleague [illegible] Middle East as a graphic artist and now a full-time painter, Macaso, believed that displaying his painting about Christ is such a very enlightening moment from him after a series of exhibits, which unveils Jesus as Son of Man.

"Honestly, Bible is one of my inspirations in painting. I just don't know that once I started thinking of it, it becomes spontaneous for me to paint the greatest Man on Earth. I became enlightened. It's weird yet a very fulfilling feeling. Now I think I've done another milestone in my life as an artist because of this exhibit."

Meanwhile, Quirante revealed to the INQUIRER that his passion to paint Christ started from his dream that one day he would be exhibiting all his works about Christ wherein spectators would be magnified by their illuminating aura. But he added that one of the moments that inspired him to do this was when he got seriously ill. "My illness then was very serious but I prayed hard that if ever I got well, I would serve Him through my paintings, and this is now happening."

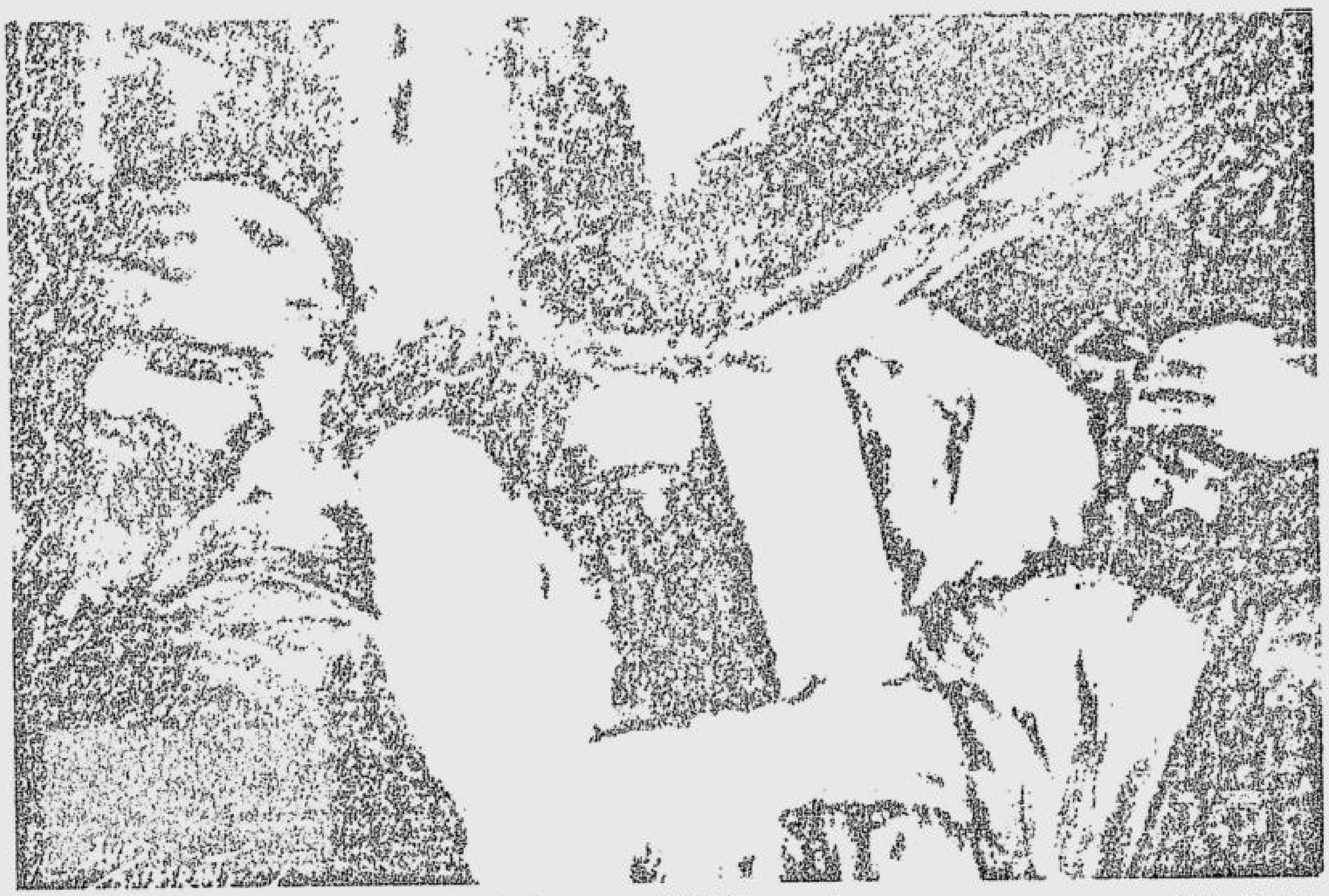
Among the four, it is only Quirante who is not convinced by Gibson's movie, but that did not prevent him from joining his friends in unfurling their passion for Christ. "Well, it's just a movie, yet like us, he (Gibson) has his own way to show his passion for Christ. He's an artist like us, though."

Masterpieces

The four artists' works of art feature the 14 Stations of the Cross, Last Supper, and Healing of the Lepers (by Quirante); Casting of the Stone on Mary Magdalene, Carrying of the Cross, and Mary Magdalene (by Temperante); sculptors featuring the different faces of Jesus, including His death and sufferings (by Miranda); and paintings about the early and public ministry life of Jesus (by Macaso).

All of them were one in saying that they made their artworks for the sake of expression not to make an impression.

"We want to give the people a different kind of entertainment this Lenten season," they said.



ONE OF the paintings drawn from inspiration given by the controversial Mel Gibson movie. [illegible]THERN [illegible] [illegible]REA[illegible]

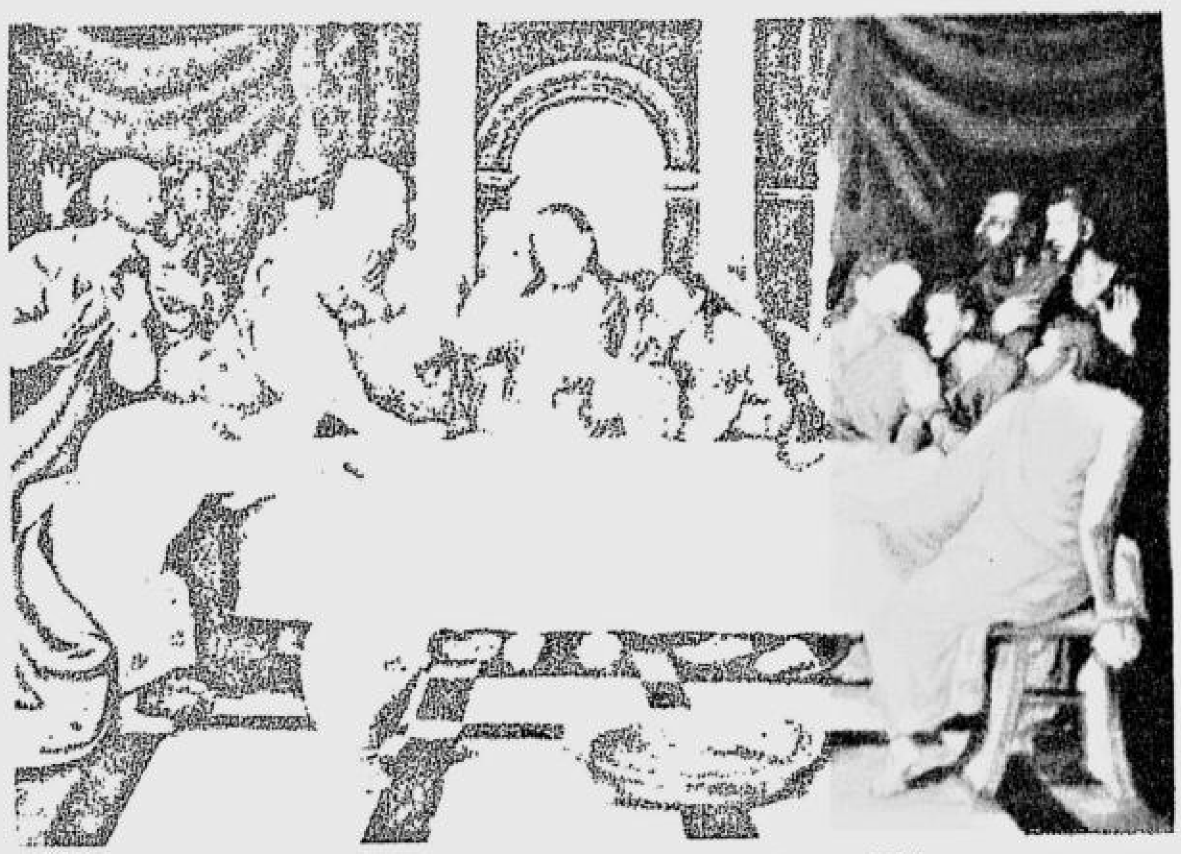
Priests work for revival of Bicol's 'Pasyon'

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
[illegible]

THE "BIKOL Pasyon" is slowly dying as a Lenten tradition in the region. Only a few elderly people in the villages still sing the narrative poem about the life of Jesus Christ as they lament that today's generation has taken this important part of Bicol culture and religion for granted.

[illegible]me Bicolano pries[illegible] [illegible] for it [illegible] Ms[illegible] Hon[illegible]sto Moral[illegible] [illegible] Jude Chur[illegible] [illegible] any [illegible] vote [illegible] tha[illegible] [illegible] and melod[illegible] [illegible]on of the Pasyon in the [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible]formed [illegible] ni[illegible] [illegible] Mora[illegible] [illegible]his [illegible] famil[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]rectly [illegible] olve [illegible] per[illegible] form[illegible] [illegible] becom[illegible] con[illegible] lize[illegible] [illegible] hr[illegible] [illegible]

"How [illegible] people understand [illegible] if you are [illegible] with the old folk [illegible] performing it? How can you value the solemnity of the Holy week? How can you possibly feel the real passion of Jesus Christ [illegible] that is the scenario? Of [illegible] and solemn [illegible] duty over [illegible] [illegible]," Moraleda [illegible]



RENDITION of the Last Supper by a Bicol artist inspired by the passion and agony of Christ. [illegible] BUREAU

Jesus' life

The Spaniards brought the 'Pasyon' to Bicol on Oct. 4, 1866. Its authorship was attributed to Tranquilino Hernandez, a native of Polangui, Albay, who claimed to have translated it from the Tagalog "Pasyon."

The Bikol Pasyon [illegible]led "An [illegible]saysayan Can Mahal na Pasion [illegible] Jesucristo Cagurangnanta na [illegible] at Ipag[illegible]ad nin Puso nin [illegible] ay [illegible] na Magbasa" (The Story of [illegible] Ho[illegible] Passion [illegible] Jesus Christ [illegible] Lor[illegible] [illegible] which Ou[illegible] to Inflame [illegible] He[illegible] Any[illegible] [illegible] Reads [illegible] that Spani[illegible] [illegible] of Spanish [illegible]

Mo[illegible]

Revival

Bicol priests and biblical scholars have long been looking [illegible] the Bikol Pasyon to preserve it as the local residents' version of the Bible and to make the present generation aware of its devotional importance.

"It would be more interesting if youngsters are given the chance to perform it publicly. Let's say, starting with the seminarians. I think people will be charmed to witness the unconventional way of performing the Bicol Pasyon," Moraleda says.

The Spaniards brought the 'Pasyon' to Bicol on Oct. 4, 1866

Rev. Fr. Jovie Lobrigo of the Albay Parish agrees.

"In [illegible]ence the Pasyon is the [illegible] tion of the Gospel as it [illegible] in the Bible, so there[illegible] [illegible]lection must be on real [illegible] [illegible] not on the food and fies[illegible] [illegible] spectator to paid old folk who keep the burden of the passion of Christ through reading and chanting," Lobrigo urges.

Involving the youth in performing the "Pasyon" would pave the way for its renaissance, both [illegible] substitute for the Bible among the local folk and as an art, as it has been considered a part of folk literature.

Revisions

Bu[illegible] Odelia Espinas, a retired literature and social science professor of the Bicol University's College of Arts and Sciences and author of "Fictional Elements in the Bicol Pasyon," says there is a need to revise, if not totally change, most of the misinterpretations about the practice of the Bicol Pasyon.

"For a long time now, the folk have been left to content themselves with the Pasyon, believing that it is the Bible itself. In the light of the findings of this study, it is expected that literati be constituted to re-study the Pasyon and purge it of elements that the Bible does not reflect," she says.

She notes that the Bikol Pasyon at present ha[illegible] [illegible] misrepresentati[illegible] [illegible] perbolic descripti[illegible] [illegible] mythical allusions, narration inconsistencies and a hodgepodge of incidents that should be harmonized with biblical accounts.

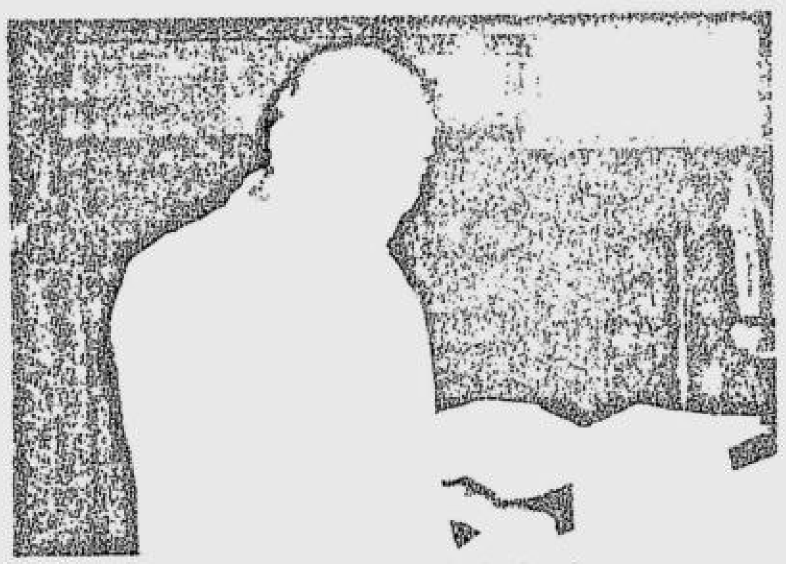
"My research study has proven that it has to be rewritten whenever an attempt to revive it for today's generation, inasmuch as the Pasyon has not only become a Lenten tradition but also because it will continue to be the popular source of biblical knowledge to them," says Espinas, the wife of the late Bicolano historian Merito Espinas.

This, she says, will revive a cultural tradition and ensure that the people will have the opportunity to be instructed correctly on their Christian faith.

She points out the schematic error and misrepresentation of the accounts of Genesis in the Bible, legends and elements alien to the Bible, misrepresentations of the incarnation of Christ, Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Marriage at Cana and Mary Magdalene.

Espinas says there are also the hyperbolic description of Joseph and the mythical allusion about Judas Iscariot, his betrayal and affair with his mother.

However, she adds, the revised edition should be careful in using educated Bicol orthography. "Vulgarisms should be avoided," she stresses.



HONORIO Domens performing his duties in church.

77-yr-old man devotes single life to Church

By Emir Emano Gamis
[illegible]

FOR Honorio Domens, [illegible] the Lenten season [illegible] just like any other; the Holy Week like any other week; and all days are the same [illegible] they are spent [illegible]rving God and the Church, that is.

Nor[illegible] [illegible] tonc[illegible] [illegible] Sorsogo[illegible] [illegible] spe[illegible] [illegible] life [illegible] th[illegible] [illegible] Archangel Paris[illegible] He may be the oldes[illegible] *sacristan mayor* [illegible] altar boy [illegible] whole dioce[illegible] of Sorsogon.

No fading

Born on May 25, 192[illegible] [illegible] said [illegible] been a sacristan since he [illegible] in Grade 6 in Masbate, work[illegible] with the late Msgr. Vicente [illegible]mar [illegible] He [illegible] 45 [illegible] when [illegible] went [illegible] 19[illegible] to work all time [illegible] under Rom[illegible] was also transferred ther[illegible] "We were together in the evac[illegible] area) during the war, (with) [illegible] father, all of us. I already knew [illegible]w to be a sacristan then," he said.

He remember the Japanese people having made friends with some of the children, although they [illegible] strict" and forced th[illegible] [illegible] Niponggo classes. He [illegible] Japanese songs as a [illegible]

"I am old but there [illegible] rau[illegible]ing," Tiyo Norio said of [illegible]

Studies

Sometime in 195[illegible] [illegible] the Our Lady of Pen[illegible]inary in Sorsogon [illegible] forced to stop his studies after [illegible]

[illegible] nat. It w[illegible] [illegible]nable [illegible] and j[illegible] [illegible] Not[illegible] betwe[illegible] their preoccupation [illegible] Tiyo Norio decided to devote his time to bei[illegible] [illegible]igan[illegible] His fath[illegible] [illegible]ditor Ma[illegible] [illegible] Ro[illegible] Pr[illegible] [illegible] pre[illegible] [illegible] outsi[illegible] [illegible] cho[illegible] [illegible] that my mind [illegible] [illegible] he explained.

No regrets

[illegible]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'He showed us how God works wonders'

By Margaux Ortiz

CHEKEL in a happy mood

EXEQUIEL Panganiban broke his daily routine and explored the world last February. The move caught his family by surprise.

Exequiel, 22, fondly called Chekel by his family, was born with high-functioning autism. Although he could take care of himself most of the time, he still needed his parents and siblings to look after him.

"Chekel has his own world. He always has his Walkman on because he loves listening to music all the time," Chekel's mother, Gloria, told the INQUIRER in an interview at their house in Parañaque City.

"But his type of autism is not that serious. We could still communicate with him verbally or in writing, and he is capable of doing things for himself like eat and take a bath," Gloria added.

Chekel was diagnosed with autism when he was three years old. The disease made him conform to structures and daily routines. He did the same thing everyday—wake up, eat and go to his father's office in Makati in the afternoon.

"But he grew up normally and even finished second year high school in a special institution," Gloria said, stressing that Chekel was just as lovable as their two younger children.

Unusual

Every once in a while, Chekel would do something unpredictable, like go to the village basketball court or to a nearby mall, or even visit his beloved grandmother in Las Piñas on foot.

"Every time he did something unusual, we always managed to bring him back to the house. Chekel never spent a night away from us," Gloria said.

Nothing however prepared the Panganiban family for what happened last Feb. 5.

The family driver had brought Chekel to his dad's office and he sat there with his water jug and lunch box, watching people pass by as usual.

Around 3 p.m., the building security guard told Diego that he saw Chekel walk toward Buendia, Pasong Tamo.

Alarmed

"We were very alarmed because it was the first time Chekel took off on his own from my office," Diego said.

He immediately went to shops frequented by his son but he was not seen there that day. Diego and Gloria, aided by relatives and friends, started looking for Chekel in Makati, Pasay and asked people living along the South Superhighway if they had seen Chekel.

Some said they saw Chekel based on the description they gave, but could not say where he could have gone.

The couple even formed brigades and distributed leaflets to different establishments in search for Chekel, but he still failed to return to their house for the next three days.

Prayers

"I continuously prayed and pleaded to the Lord," Gloria said, remembering how she asked God to take care of Chekel when he was hospitalized last November for dengue fever and how He had granted her request.

"It really broke my heart but I felt so helpless, so weak and I felt I only have the Lord to trust in my lowliest time," Gloria added.

Familiar sound

At 3:15 a.m. on Feb. 8, the Panganiban family was roused from sleep by a loud but familiar sound.

"We broke down in tears, hugging and kissing our son when Chekel came back home all by himself," Gloria recounted, saying that their eldest son just gave them an amused smile.

Gloria said Chekel was quiet the next morning, but began telling his story later in the day.

Chekel said he rode public vehicles like jeepneys and buses—which he never did in the past—to get to the northern part of Metro Manila to as far as Hagonoy, Bulacan.

He told his parents that he survived by drinking water from a hose in a Caltex gas station and eating rice at a canteen and spaghetti given by a generous man.

Chekel also recounted how he lost his Walkman and shoes while he was sleeping on the grass.

Watching over him

"We believe that someone was watching over him then because had he been awake when his Walkman and shoes got stolen, Chekel would have fought back and hurt himself," Gloria said.

Chekel said he was later prodded to go home by a man in white who said his mama was very worried and looking for him.

"Sometimes, we think he only went as far as Monumento because there are some areas there which fit his description of places he had been to," Gloria said.

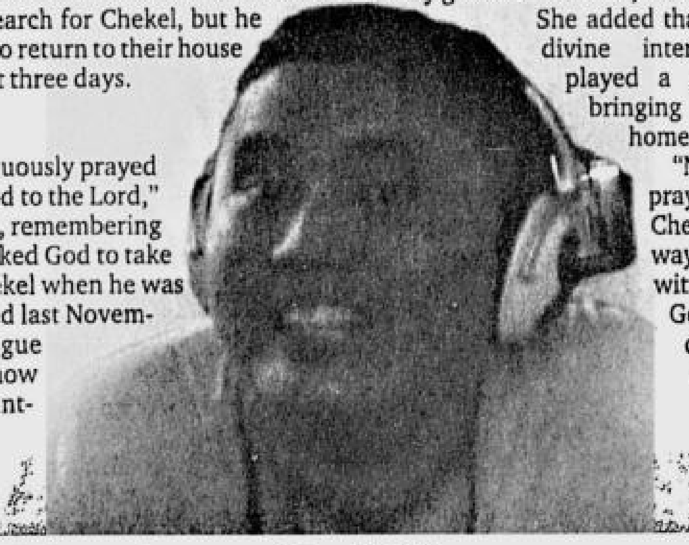
But Chekel would then tell stories of how he had been to a nipa hut, which Gloria said does not exist in Monumento.

Divine intervention

"We could only surmise where he had really been to. While we're searching the southern part of Metro Manila, Chekel had really gone to the north," Gloria said.

She added that they believe divine intervention had played a great part in bringing their son home.

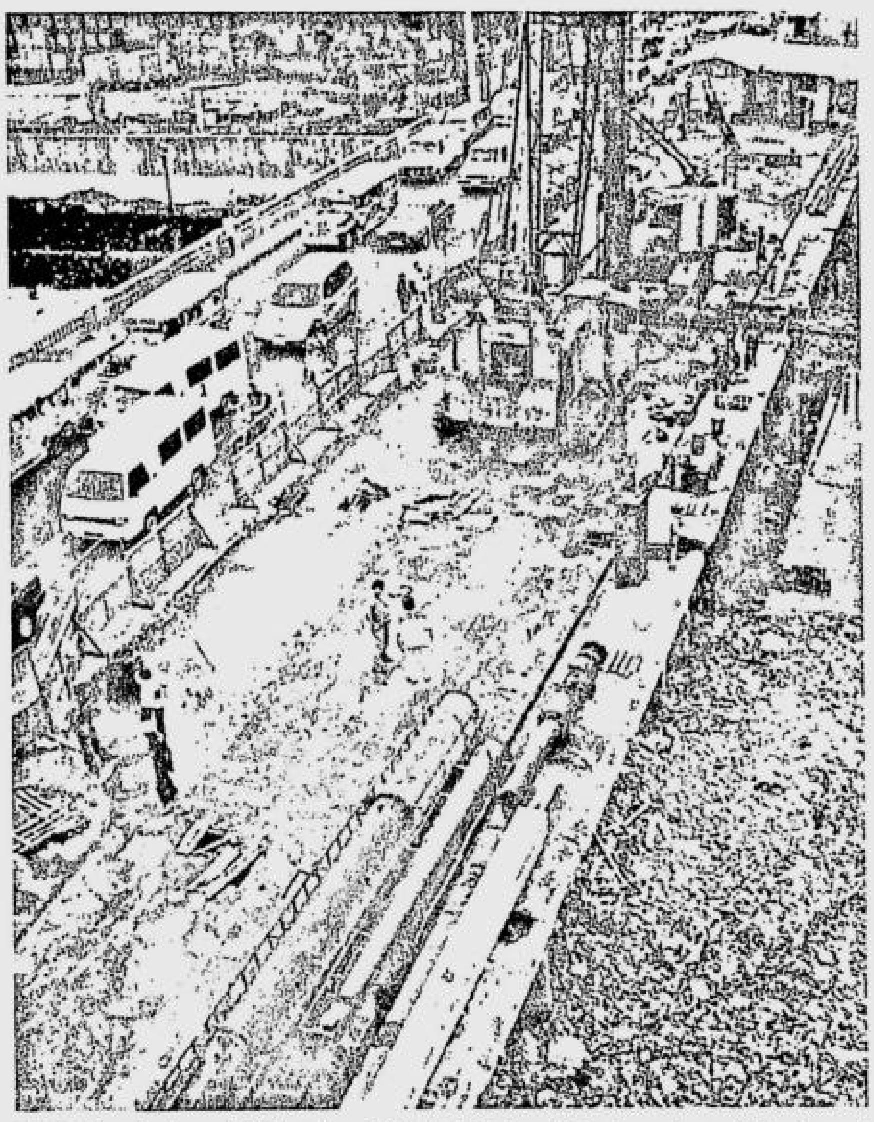
"Many people prayed for us. Chekel would always be a living witness of how God works wonders," Gloria said, with a sweet smile.



CHEKEL loves to listen to music from his Walkman stereo

Bridge project delay drives motorists mad

By Luige del Puerto



THE delay in the rehabilitation of Sevilla Bridge at the boundary of Manila and Mandaluyong continues to irk motorists. RUDY ESPERAS

HOW LONG does it take to rehabilitate a bridge in Metro Manila's Tiger City?

Long enough to have motorists and businessmen seething in frustration.

A lane of the Sevilla Bridge on Gen. Kalentong Street in Mandaluyong City has been closed to traffic since its rehabilitation started in August last year.

The bridge connects Mandaluyong to Manila.

From Gen. Kalentong Street, motorists are now being diverted to F. Manalo and to V. Mapa—a longer, more congested route to the country's capital.

The P22-million project is supposed to be completed in seven months, according to City Engineer Conrado Anciado.

"We have repeatedly coordinated with DPWH about it but to no avail," he said.

The Department of Public Works and Highways oversees all bridge works in the country.

Problem foundation

The problem lies at the bridge's foundation. The contractor, O.R. Sarmiento, found out last year that Sevilla's pillars stood on "soft ground," according to Engr. Ramon Cacatian, assistant director with the Special Bridges unit of the DPWH.

"It's not the contractor's fault that the bridge's foundation is soft," Cacatian said. "They have to redesign the piers to match the ground. That caused the delay."

Despite the delay, however, Cacatian sees the bridge's completion by August this year.

"With the full cooperation of the contractor, it would be finished by July or August," he said.

Since resuming work last March 10, up to 39 percent of the project has been carried out, Cacatian said.

Standby

The casting of two of the bridge's four concrete posts has been completed. Two cranes are already on standby in the area, ready to hammer the pillars down in the next few days.

Business establishments, which reported considerable losses as a direct result of the project, would have to wait for a few more months.

One of those severely affected is S.O.S. (Save on Surplus), an appliance and computer center located at the foot of the bridge.

The shop's former owner dropped the shop last September. "She could no longer bear the losses," said Rogelio Rosel, an employee who now manages the shop.

"Our quota is P25,000 a day, but our sales is only around P 3,000 daily," Rosel said.

"This branch will start kicking again once the work on the bridge is done," he said.

Mild rebuke

A few meters from the computer shop, a billboard says: "DPWH, please finish the bridge. It has been closed since August, 2003. Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr."

The message is a mild rebuke considering the headache that the project has caused, say motorists.

Chief Engineer Anciado said the city is ready to take over the project if the DPWH so wishes. "The city should have done that a long time ago," snapped an irate jeepney driver.

Old woman dies in Pateros fire

A 69-YEAR-OLD woman was burned to death when a fire broke inside her bedroom early yesterday morning in Pateros.

Helen Mag-iba, of 342 G. De Borja St., Barangay Aguho, Pateros, sustained severe burns in her body when the fire spread from her room to the kitchen and living room of her two-story house.

FO1 Oscar de Borja said the victim was sleeping when the fire of a still undetermined origin broke out inside her room at around 1 a.m. *Margaux Ortiz*

Retired mentors meet

THERE will be a general meeting of retired teachers, principals, administrators, supervisors and non-teaching employees of the Division of City Schools, Manila, on April 17, 2004 at the P. Gomez Elementary School in Sta. Cruz, Manila, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please call any of the following for details: Ben Hornilla at 895-3809; Frank Daguimol at 921-4053; or Rose Revadelo at 921-6178.

Big Quezon City mall now under cop watch

THE MANDALUYONG Police has taken Robinson's Galleria in Quezon City under its wings .

Starting yesterday, the city police has assumed responsibility over the immediate response to crime and emergency situation in and outside the mall, located at the crossroads of three cities and a town.

The instruction from the Eastern Police District leadership, however, is "verbal" and the setup is not final.

"We are the closest police force in the area. CPD (Central Police District) is too far," police chief Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez explained over the phone.

"Besides, the Edsa Shrine is also part of our beat patrol," he said.

But those who want to pursue a case in court would still have to go to Quezon City to file the charge—not Mandaluyong, Velasquez said.

The city police's job, for now, is limited to securing the mall's premises and attending to emergency calls.

There are no guidelines yet on how to proceed with the investigation of a particular incident, like robbery or theft that could occur within the malls premises.

"This (set up) is not final, but I think this would be the direction of the (NCRPO) National Capital Region Police Office," the police chief said.

"What is important is that public safety is not compromised," he added.

Mandaluyong shares its borders with Quezon City, San Juan, Manila, Makati City and Pasig City.

Police Community Precinct-4, located near Shangri-La Edsa, is the closest police station to Robinson's.

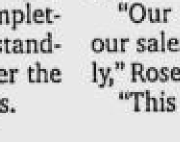
This is not the first time that the Mandaluyong Police has helped secure the mall.

During protest actions, the city police is often tasked to secure the Edsa Shrine as well as the Poveda School, both located beside the mall. *Luige del Puerto*

Cops beat up crime victim

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



FOR TELLING policemen to their faces that they were not doing their job, a waiter was beaten black and blue and then jailed.

"How dare that lowly citizen speak that way to us, his social superiors!" the cops who were told off probably said. "He should learn to respect policemen because we wear a badge and he doesn't."

Among the most powerful and privileged creatures in this country are policemen. Make no mistake about that.

* * *

Emmanuel Ringor, 27, was on his way home from work and was waiting for a ride when somebody snatched his backpack at the Balintawak Market in Quezon City. It was 1 a.m. Sunday.

He ran to the police precinct nearby and sought help. The snatcher lingered around after snatching his backpack and acted like nothing happened.

Ringor reported the snatching to a PO1 Rabina who was behind the complaints desk. Rabina didn't do anything.

Angered by the cop's indifference, Ringor told them they were not doing their job. Ringor's outburst angered the cops at the station. They ganged up on him.

One of those who took part in beating him up was Insp. Marcopolo Estera, the precinct commander.

Ringor was released from detention hours later after his mother interceded with the cops.

The cops thought that because they released Ringor, that would be the end of it. Mother and son sought my help at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo".

(By the way, the motto of the Philippine National Police is "to serve and protect" the citizenry).

When Ringor got to my office on Monday, he had a cut on his right eyebrow and bruises on different parts of his body.

He said he couldn't understand why the cops had to beat him up and jail him when he didn't commit a crime. All he told them, he said, was that they were not doing their job.

His mother, Reyna, said her son never got into trouble. Why did they beat him up and jail him when he didn't do anything wrong? she asked.

When one of my reporters, Alin Ferrer, confronted Inspector Estera, he expressed surprise why Ringor had to complain when he was freed without any charges.

The young lieutenant, a 2001 graduate of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), even shouted at the reporter.

Estera talked very fast, so fast that Alin could not butt in to ask him questions. He said Ringor had hurt himself when he stumbled on the cement floor while he was making a scene at the station because of drunkenness.

Then, Alin said, why didn't they file a case of alarm and scandal against Ringor? It was good she was able to butt in.

Estera paused for a while and said it was for "humanitarian reason" that they didn't.

Estera will be seeing more of us at "Isumbong." We will help Ringor file criminal and administrative charges against Estera and his men.

* * *

Unlike its counterpart, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), it seems the PNPA produces graduates who become very abusive the minute they leave its portals.

I'm not only referring to Estera, I'm also referring to a host of other PNPA graduates.

Take for instance those six new PNPA graduates who were dismissed in 1998 for beating up an old woman during a drunken stupor.

The six had just gotten out of the PNPA grounds after receiving their diplomas that same day when they decided to paint the town red. And paint they did! They drank the whole night and ended up at a hole-in-the-wall bar at the side of the railways. Because of drunkenness, their hands were all over the place, including the breasts and buttocks of the waitresses. When the waitresses protested the unruly behavior, they slapped them.

The owner of the establishment, 62-year-old Aling Fely, was awakened by the commotion downstairs and came down to check. The new inspectors beat her up.

The six were dismissed when we brought Aling Fely's complaint with the PNP high command.

But what do you know? The six have been reinstated. No reason was given for their reinstatement.

Authorities should revise the PNPA curriculum so many of its subjects would be about good manners and right conduct and human relations.

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

FOUR DIGIT
0 1 9 3
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
1 2 3

MEGALOTTO 6/45
2 9 26 28 30 36

COPS' REQUEST AS POLL DRIVE HEATS UP

More guns, patrol cars, radios

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HERE'S one thing national police officials can reflect about.

Just like other police districts, the Northern Police District is requesting additional guns, police cars and radio equipment to beef up security measures as the election period heats up.

District director Marcelino Franco told the INQUIRER yesterday they had prepared a list of requests for additional logistics as part of the preparations for the elections.

He said additional radio equipment and police cars would help the police monitor effectively and respond faster during emergencies.

Franco said they were not expecting all their requests to be granted.

The district needs at least 56 additional M-16 rifles (and ammunition), four police vehicles, six units of base radio and 20 search lights, based on a logistics requirement table prepared by the four police stations in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela area.

The Caloocan Police Station alone is requesting 36 rifles and a police car. Elections in the city is expected to be intense, with no less than the rival politicians themselves predicting a violent polls.

In an updated assessment, the district has declared three big barangays in Caloocan City as areas of immediate concern. These are Bagong Barrio, Bagong Silang and Dagat-Dagatan.

The police based the assessment on the "intense political rivalry" between the candidates' supporters.

The district is also requesting additional gas allowances as mobile patrolling is being intensified. In an earlier interview, some Mobile Force operatives said they spend for the gasoline of their own motorcycles they use in their operations.

Do all the surfing you want this summer!
PLDT VIBE
PAY-PER-SURF
50%OFF
All summer long!
PLDT
vibe
internet
Vibester
PLDT
convergence@home

Pay only for the minutes you use, now only 25 centavos per minute all day, all night from April 1 - May 31, 2004.

*50% off applies to current peak rate of 50 centavos per minute. Off peak rate still at 25 centavos per minute.

PER DTI-NCR NO. 0689, SERIES OF 2004.

call 171 or visit www.pldtvibe.com

Make new friends and meet the hottest celebrities online! Log on to www.pldtvibester.com

Online friendship just got better.

Baseco fire victims still waiting for lot awards

By Leila B. Salaverria

RESIDENTS of the Baseco Compound in Manila who lost their homes in a devastating fire in January are still awaiting for the good news from the government.

The good news involves the lots the government promised to assign to them after the blaze.

The Baseco residents are hoping to receive the lot assignments soon so they could finally rebuild their lives, said Jeorgie Tenolete, head of the Kabalikat sa Pagpapaunlad ng Baseco, during the Kalbaryo ng Maralitang Lungsod staged by the Urban Poor Associates at the Baseco compound yesterday.

"*Gusto namin mabigyan ng pag-asa na sa amin maibibigay yung lote na dati naming tinirahan. Sana maibigay na ang papel na nagtatakda ng* lot assignments (We want to be given the assurance that the lots we used to inhabit would be assigned to us. We hope to receive the papers showing our lot assignments)," Tenolete said in an interview.

Feeling of uncertainty

He said the lot assignments are something that had been promised Baseco residents earlier but has yet to be given to them.

He added that the feeling of uncertainty about whether residents would be given lots or not is very difficult for the Baseco residents to live with, and adds to the everyday burden they carry.

"*Hindi namin alam kung papaalisin pa kami o hindi* (We don't know whether we would be asked to leave or not)," he said, adding that even if the residents have to wait for the actual construction of houses, they would be happy as long as they have the lot assignments to hold on to.

Tenolete, who also lost his house in the nine-hour fire that left around 4,000 families homeless, said he and his family had rebuilt a temporary house in the lot where their former home used to stand. They chose to stay there in order to protect their lot from being usurped by other people, he said.

He also said that since the construction of houses to be provided by the government has yet to take place, residents taking shelter at evacuation centers have to live with limited resources and the threat of disease.

4 WPD cops linked to hijacking nabbed

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOUR police officers were arrested in Caloocan City for their alleged involvement in hijacking activities in Metro Manila.

The suspects—Insp. Brando Britanico, PO3 Eufemio Castillo, PO2 Jefferson Britanico and PO1 Ericson Peralta—are all assigned at the Western Police District, according to Chief Supt. Danilo Mangila, Traffic Management Group director.

Mangila said the TMG had received a complaint from Truckspeed Trucking Company that its two 20-footer container vans loaded with P3 million worth of corned beef had gone missing.

Acting on the complaint, Mangila deployed members of TMG's Task Force Limbas who later spotted the stolen trucks in Barangay Kaybiga, Caloocan City, late Tuesday night.

While Mangila's men were inspecting the trucks, they noticed an owner-type jeep (CPC-167) nearby with two men on board.

The two men identified themselves as Insp. Britanico and PO3 Castillo when confronted by TMG officers. They claimed they were conducting surveillance in the area.

Not buying the alibi, the TMG arrested the two officers along with PO2 Britanico and PO1 Peralta who arrived shortly after the confrontation.

Citing reports, Mangila said the four officers were involved in the hijacking of the two Truckspeed cargo trucks. The suspects are detained at the TMG headquarters in Camp Crame.

'Seven Last Words' on TV

THE ST. Jude Parish at San Miguel, Manila, will air the "Seven Last Words" on Good Friday, over TV-IBC 13, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

The preachers are Fr. Lino Nicasio, Fr. Arlo Yap, Fr. John O'Mahony, Fr. Bel San Luis, Fr. Rex Vidal, Fr. Pol Jaucian and Fr. Jerry Orbos, who are all members of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD).

Each "Last Word" will be followed by a prayer to be recited by the following family-sponsors: Former Manila Mayor and Mrs. Mel Lopez, Mr. Edison-Mrs. Teresita Tung; Mr. Alfred-Mrs. Carol Lao, Councilor & Mrs. Federico Sandoval, Mr. & Mrs. Joey Uy, and Mr. & Mrs. Fernando Go.

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

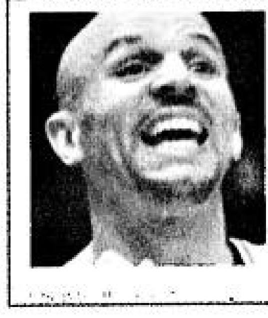
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: 2004 Masters-First Round Preview; tomorrow at 3 a.m. (r-12:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); First Round; tomorrow at 4 a.m. (r-1:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.); First Round Highlights; tomorrow at 4 p.m.; Second Round Preview; Saturday at 3:30 a.m. (r-12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.); Second Round; Saturday at 4 a.m. (r- 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.); Second Round Highlights; Saturday at 3:30 p.m.; Star Sports-Golf's first major goes underway from Augusta, Georgia.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

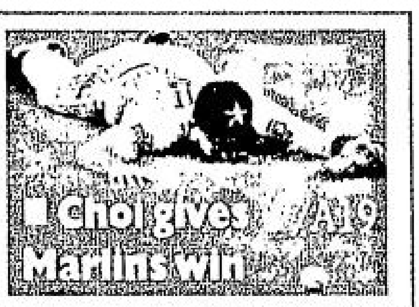
WHAT'S INSIDE



■ **Pistons win; Bucks spoil Kidd return** /A18

■ **Vijay sets sights on Tiger** /A19

■ **Navratilova loses at Amelia** /A19



■ **Choi gives Marlins win** /A19

JAPAN ASIAN CYCLING

Tour champs target Olympic berths

DAVADILLA crosses the finish line all alone in Lucena City on the 4th Lap of the 2003 Tour Pilipinas. PDI PHOTO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PAST Tour Pilipinas champions Arnel Quirimit and Warren Davadilla make up the crack four-man team that will vie for slots in the Athens Olympics this week.

They left yesterday to take part in the Asian Cycling Championships in Yokaichi City, a tournament that gives winners outright passes to the August Olympics.

So far the Philippines only has 12 bets in the Olympics, though the Philippine Olympic Committee earlier estimated the number to rise to 18 as Filipino athletes take part in qualifying events to be held in the next few months.

QUIRIMIT PDI PHOTO

Quirimit and Davadilla, favorites to win the 17-stage Tour which begins April 15, will tag along Tour campaigners, sprint champ Enrique Domingo and rookie Dante Cagas.

Aside from their bids to nail Olympic slots, the riders are also hoping to gain an edge in experience competing against the region's best before plunging into action in the Tour Pilipinas.

The team, however, complained of the delay of their equipment that will be used in Japan.

Philcycling, the country's governing body for the sport, said the cyclists were only able to get the equipment last Tuesday, the day before their departure.

The reason, according to the officials, is that the equipment, borrowed by another RP team in the Tour de Langkawi in Malaysia last February, were returned only on that day.

The Philippines already has three swimmers, three boxers, three taekwondo jins, two tracksters and one archer going to Athens.

However, the country can gain more bets in judo, fencing, gymnastics, rowing and triathlon if they can win in their respective Olympic qualifying tourneys.

Challengers return as team skippers

THEY came close to winning last year's Tour ng Pilipinas. Now, Warren Davadilla, Merculio Ramos and Ryan Tanguilig are back to challenge Arnel Quirimit anew.

Backed by generous sponsors, they will make a push for the individual crown and prevent Quirimit's bid for a repeat championship while they try to skipper their squads to the cash-rich team classification title of the Tour Pilipinas 2004 presented by Air21.

"I'm raring to fight this year," said Ramos, last year's runner-up in the individual category.

Ramos returns to lead the Samsung squad, which also features Villamayor, Baluyot, Ericson Obosa, Gregorio Bergonio, Joel Guillen, Dionesio Mendoza and Jun Villanueva. The team is coached by Neil Barles.

A lot of eyes, though, will be on Tanguilig, the most feared darkhorse last year. Despite being ganged up by members of the national team, Tanguilig nearly fashioned the greatest upset in Tour history and wound up fourth in the individual category.

"I'm in tip-top shape because I trained the whole year round," said Tanguilig.

Tanguilig is the captain of Team PLDT, which features Sherwin Diamsay, Michael Reyes, Benito Lopez, Ryan Mendoza, Johnny Dasalla and Roberto Pagala in the race also supported by Isuzu Phils. Corp., Pharex Multivitamins, Gatorade, Red Bull, Lactovitale and Summit.

Davadilla, the last champion of the former Tour, is also among those bidding to stop Quirimit.

The pint-sized rider will lead new team Purefoods in the team race. His members are Eusebio Quiñones, Benito Stalin, John Ricafort, Joffrey Talaver, Dominador Tacutacu and Ronnel Hualda.

Purefoods will be coached by ex-Samsung mentor Gerardo Igos with the ageless Rolando Pagnanawon acting as masseur and mechanic in the 21-day race that starts Monday.

The cyclists will start off in Sorsogon, Sorsogon, and pedal northward and will make stops in 16 other key cities. They will traverse through 24 provinces in Luzon, covering a distance of 2, 758.69 km.

Bacolod to defend Little League plum

BACOLOD City, the reigning Girls Softball World Series champion, will defend its title in the 2004 Little League Philippine Series that kicks off on April 12 in Tanauan City, Batangas.

"We are coming back to defend our title in our own Little League Series with fresh faces. But we remain competitive," said Bacolod coach Rey Fuentes, whose charges made sports history last year by becoming the country's first girls softball squad to bag the World Series crown.

"We are also here since we want to represent our country again in the World Series to defend also our title there," Fuentes added.

Beside the Bacolod belles, who seek to retain their 13 to 14-year-old plum, the other teams to watch in girls softball are sister squad Dep-Ed Bacolod and Silay City of Negros Occidental.

International Little League Association of Manila (Illam), on the other hand, is tipped to dominate boys baseball as its squads seek to duplicate a sweep of all age group competitions last year.

The Illam batters are the reigning 11-12, 13-14, 14-16 and 16-18 champions.

Opening ceremonies will be at 2 p.m. on April 12 at the Plantacion de Sol with Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III, Little League Philippines chair and chief executive officer, as guest of honor.

The competition has drawn 80 teams from all over the country.

Joson will be assisted by Tanauan Mayor Alfredo Corona and LLP president and district administrator Serge Bernal in making the ceremonial pitch.

Badminton camp enlists services of 3 ex-nationals

THREE former national players will be on hand to assist participants in the first of two training sessions of the Epson Summer Badminton Camp slated April 12-May 3 at the Pioneer Badminton Club.

Camp director Eg Lim, together with RP teammates Malvin Alcala and Steven Yan, will impart the skills and techniques they had learned from their stint with the national squad.

"By the time the participants had finished the Epson Camp, they will experience remarkable improvement in their motor and physical skills," said Lim, who prepared various training modules for the participants.

Aside from motor and physical skills, Lim said the participants would also be oriented on the proper rules of the game, court discipline and court etiquette.

Pioneer Badminton Club's Edmin Tarriela, the chief organizer of the event sponsored by Epson, said the second batch of participants will also go through a 10-week session scheduled May 10-31.

Tarriela added the Epson camp, open to all badminton enthusiasts young and old, will present extensive two-week training courses for beginners, intermediate and advanced players.

Registration fee is P2,500 inclusive of court fees, shuttlecocks and certificate of completion. Uniform fee will be waived for the first 100 registrants. Interested parties may call 746-0828 or 638-5343.

Tarriela said participants can choose from a Monday-Wednesday-Friday (12 noon-1:30 p.m.) schedule or attend the sessions on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays from 2-3:30 p.m.

Find Churches with myGlobe

Aside from reminding us on how much Jesus loves us, Lent also calls us to renew our relationship with Him.

myGlobe offers an alternative way to observe Holy Week with a slew of Lenten services.

Need to confess? Text FINDME CHURCH to 2333. More than giving you the exact location of the church you are looking for, the service also includes mass schedules for the whole week.

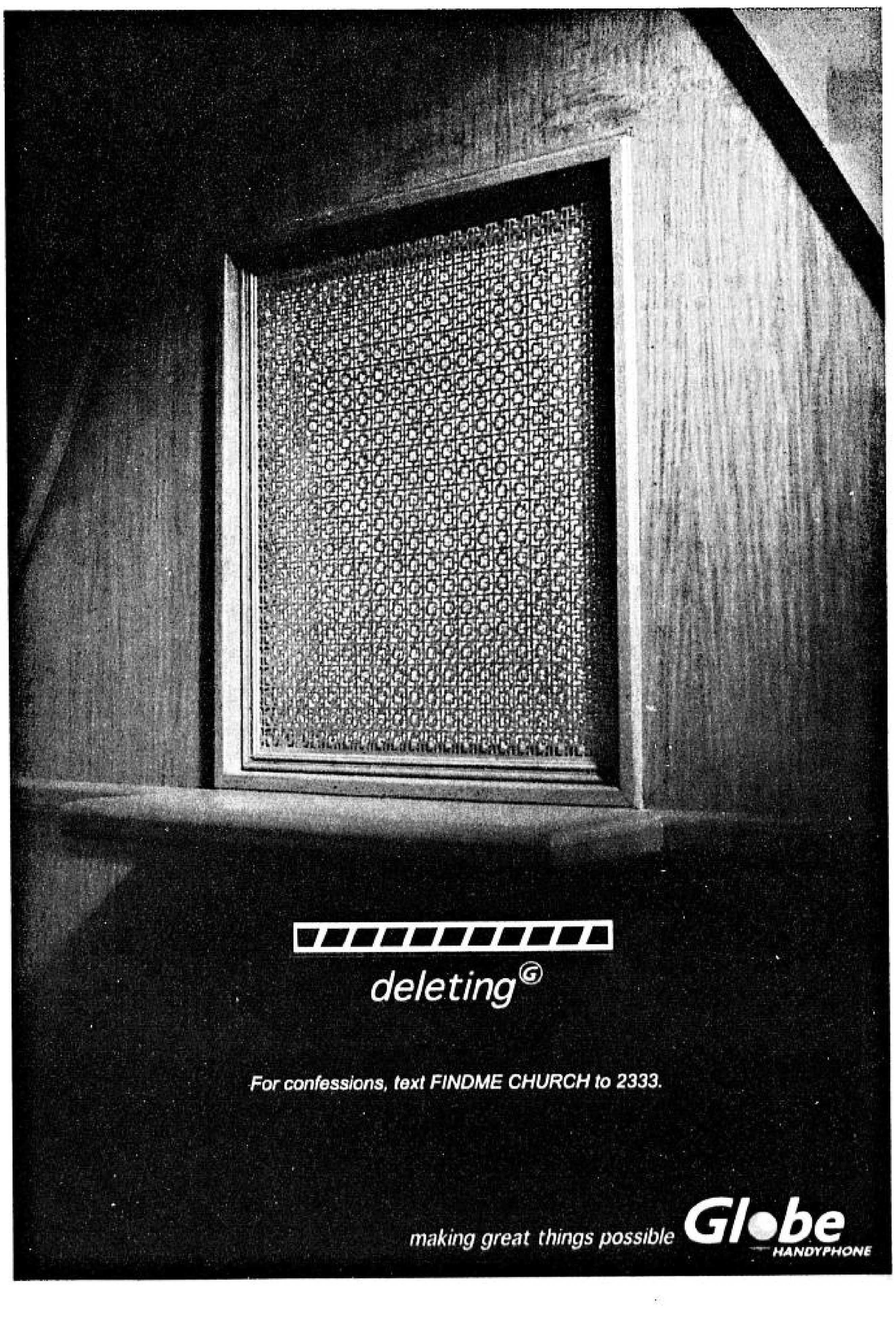
On Good Friday, you can even receive The Savior's Seven Last Words on your Globe from 9am to 3pm. Just text SEVEN to 2922.

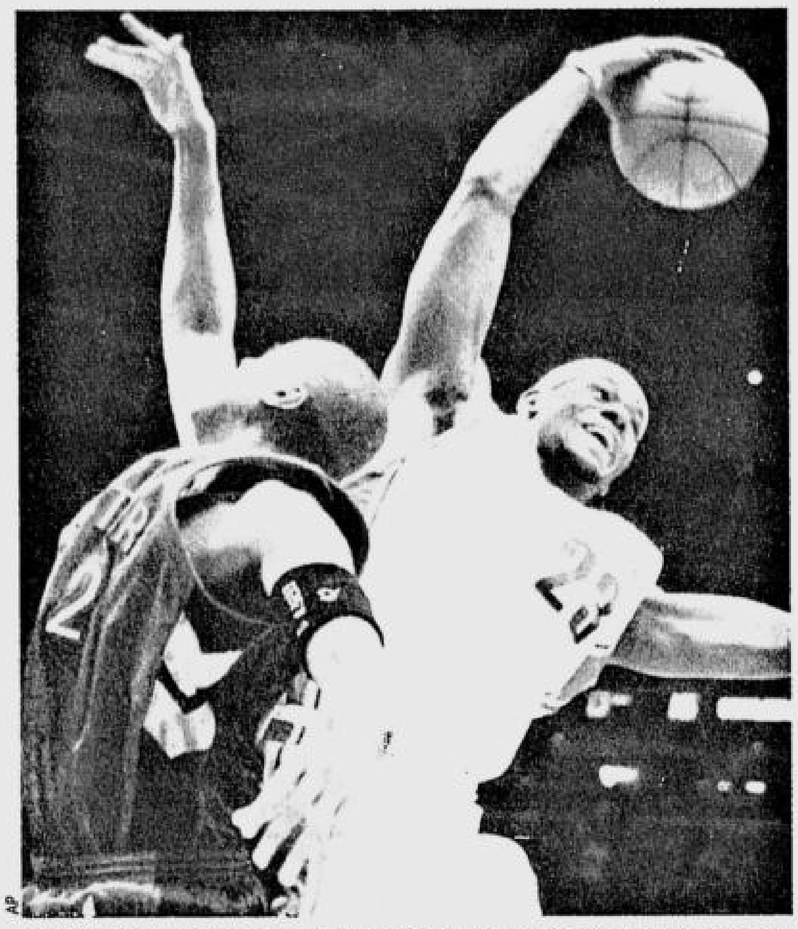
Get the scriptures everyday by texting BIBLE to 2363. You can also text GOODNEWS to 29766 for your daily reflections. Or receive them in Filipino by texting SAGLIT to 2346.

Text PRAY <your petition> to 29766 to have your prayer requests interceded by Jesuit priests.

With myGlobe, you get relevant Lenten services you want in this season of renewal.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT


deleting©
For confessions, text FINDME CHURCH to 2333.
making great things possible
Globe HANDYPHONE



CAVALIERS' LeBron James (23) outrebounds Raptors' Donyell Marshall.

Pistons win; Bucks spoil Kidd return

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Rasheed Wallace had 17 points and 11 rebounds to help the Detroit Pistons hand the Orlando Magic their 11th straight loss, 102-86.

KIDD REUTERS

The Pistons won for the 13th time in 15 games but also had a key loss. Starting point guard Chauncey Billups did not return after twisting his left ankle when he stepped on Tyronn Lue's foot in the third quarter.

Detroit also got 12 points from Ben Wallace and Tayshaun Prince and 11 from Richard Hamilton. No starter played more than 31 minutes.

Lue led the Magic with 21 points, and Keith Bogans added 15 points and nine rebounds.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Milwaukee Bucks spoiled the long-awaited return of All-Stars Jason Kidd and Kenyon Martin, rallying from a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to defeat the New Jersey Nets, 103-93.

Michael Redd and Desmond Mason led a late 10-0 spurt that moved Milwaukee closer to gaining home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. The Bucks increased their lead over fifth-place Miami to 1 1/2 games.

Damon Jones had 23 points and 11 assists, Redd added 21 points and Mason 18 in the Bucks' third straight win. Keith Van Horn had 13, including two big freethrows with 17 seconds to play to push the lead to five points.

Rodney Rogers had a season-high 26 points and Richard Jefferson 25 for the Nets, who welcomed back Kidd for the first time in three weeks. Martin also returned to the lineup for only the second time in that span.

In Atlanta, rookie Willie Green scored a career-high 26 points and Samuel Dalembert added 18 points and 18 rebounds to help the Philadelphia 76ers to a 103-100 win over the Hawks. .

With the Sixers protecting a 101-100 lead in overtime, Eric Snow hit a jump shot with 8.6 seconds left to push the lead to three points. Bob Sura missed a last-second 3-pointer to leave the Hawks 0-6 in overtime games this season. *AP*

Complete results: Philadelphia 103, Atlanta 100 (OT); Toronto 87, Cleveland 86; Detroit 102, Orlando 86; Milwaukee 103, New Jersey 98; Indiana 107, New York 86; Dallas 118, Seattle 108; Portland 91, LA Lakers 80; Sacramento 105, New Orleans 91; Golden State 97, Houston 90

UConn keeps women's title for historic sweep

NEW ORLEANS—With the incomparable Diana Taurasi leading the way, the University of Connecticut's women completed a championship sweep for the school by beating Tennessee, 70-61, for their third straight title.

The victory by the women Tuesday followed UConn's win over Georgia Tech in the men's championship game the night before, making Connecticut the first Division I school to sweep both titles.

"Unbelievable," UConn women's coach Geno Auriemma said. "It's so mind-boggling. An unbelievable accomplishment for a school."

It was the fifth title overall for the women and it came at the expense of the only other school that has won three straight championships. Tennessee and coach Pat Summitt still lead all teams with six NCAA titles, but Auriemma and the Huskies are closing fast.

They started fast in this one, racing to a 17-point lead in the first half. Tennessee got the lead down to six at halftime, closed to three early in the second half and trailed by just two after Brittany Jackson hit a 3-pointer from 3 feet behind the arc with 9:50 to play.

Connecticut (31-4) got the lead back to eight, but the Lady Vols kept coming. Ashley Robinson blocked Barbara Turner's turnaround shot, raced to the other end, caught a no-look pass from Shanna Zolman and made a layup, drawing the Lady Vols to 59-55. *AP*

Abundo-Estimo power play continues

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines has suspended secretary general Sammy Estimo from further functioning pending an audit and investigation into the books and financial records of the NCFP while Estimo was in office.

Estimo's relief was contained in an NCFP board resolution signed by 10 of 15 of the federation's board of directors led by president Mat Defensor and chair Andres Gatmaitan.

Also signing the resolution were board members Gen. Arturo Carillo, NCFP vice president; Constantino Marcaida, treasurer; Juanito Calditaran, auditor; and directors Gen. Jaime Viernes Jr., Thaddeus Santos, Rey Sarmiento, Casto Abundo and Gene Poliarco.

In the resolution, the board also resolved to temporarily transfer all the functions and duties of Estimo to Abundo, the NCFP executive director, and declared that "all further dealings with Estimo will not be honored."

Estimo, on the other hand, directed Abundo to report to him, submit all NCFP documents in his possession and refrain from issuing unauthorized press releases.

"The NCFP charter is clear. The secretary general is the custodian of all records and documents. He and the president alone can issue press releases," said Estimo.

Estimo's action came on the heels of a memorandum circular signed by NCFP president Mat Defensor Tuesday calling for the maintenance of status quo in deference to the NCFP elections in July.

The memo reads:

"Please be advised that I am calling for the maintenance of status quo in the corporate set-up of our federation because we are mere holdover directors and I will soon be calling for the election of new members who will compose the directors and officers for the year 2004-2005.

"In particular, Atty. Samuel Estimo will exercise his functions as secretary general uninterruptedly, as vested on him by the NCFP Bylaws until and unless he fails to get his mandate in the forthcoming election mentioned above.

Estimo has been accused by the country's top chess players, spearheaded by Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor and International Master Chito Garma, of mismanaging the NCFP's affairs that virtually led to a standstill of chess development in the country.

The NCFP official still has to account for the allowances given by the PSC to national players that competed in two international competitions that they failed to receive.

They include the members of the RP squad that competed in the 2002 World Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia, and the players of the national junior team that took part in the 2003 World Youth Chess Championship in Halkidiki, Greece.

In both instances, it was Estimo who received the PSC financial assistance on behalf of the NCFP.

Who is the Barabbas of chess?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SOME newspapers had reported on Wednesday terrible disunity in the local chess world.

The disunity angle is old hat.

But there's a new twist to it and that's what I'm going to discuss here today.

The central figures to Wednesday's news reports are, as usual, Sammy Estimo and Toti Abundo. Playing supporting roles are Mat Defensor, president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP), and Gene Poliarco, whom Abundo had replaced as NCFP executive director under dubious circumstances. Essaying bit parts in the story are NCFP chair Andres Gatmaitan, VP Gen. Arturo Carillo, treasurer Constantino Marcaida, auditor Juanito Calditaran, Gen. Jaime Viernes Jr., councilor Thaddeus Santos and Rey Sarmiento.

To the uninitiated, Sammy Estimo is the NCFP secretary general. Anybody will tell you that that position is the most powerful in any organization on Earth.

One story that came out in the papers on Wednesday said that Sammy Estimo had gone on leave.

The truth is, that story was a press release sent by Toti Abundo to the newspapers. In his release, Abundo said Estimo had been ordered to go on leave through a resolution signed "by 10 directors of the NCFP last March 13." The same release said Abundo had transferred the NCFP headquarters to "his unit at Midland Plaza in Ermita, Manila." Abundo said "all further dealings (by anyone) with Estimo would not be honored."

The report about Sammy Estimo going on leave isn't true. No less than Sammy Estimo has denied he was on leave.

Interviewed by Tempo, Estimo said he had not left his NCFP offices at Teacher's Village in Quezon City and branded Abundo's statement as a "bare-faced lie."

Said Estimo: "How can it be (his being on leave)? There was no quorum as only five attended (the NCFP meeting)."

Estimo's statement was corroborated by Poliarco.

"I attended the said meeting and the people present were Abundo, Gatmaitan, Marcaida, Calditaran and myself," said Poliarco as quoted by Tempo.

Estimo also told Tempo: "The document in Abundo's hand is illegal since the board meeting had no quorum, a fact supported by Poliarco."

In an alleged subsequent meeting on April 3 called again by Abundo that was intended to ratify "the illegal meeting of March 13," Estimo told Tempo that "only Gatmaitan, Marcaida and Calditaran were present."

Two things stand out here: First, Abundo transferring the NCFP headquarters to his own abode and, second, Abundo brandishing a resolution purportedly signed by 10 NCFP directors declaring Estimo to be on leave as NCFP secretary general.

The first is already a serious enough sin and Abundo could be declared guilty of usurping power if it's true that he did what he did. Who is he to transfer the NCFP headquarters all by himself? He is not even the NCFP president. Did the NCFP board know about the transfer?

The second is also that grievous and horrible enough as to merit a formal inquiry into Abundo's actuations. Certainly, a probe is in order: Did 10 directors attend the meeting as Abundo had alleged, or just five as attested by Poliarco? Remember, Poliarco had publicly admitted he was in that meeting.

Meanwhile, while all this Abundo-authored brouhaha is raging, here come the chess clubs of Mandaluyong City and Tanauan, Batangas, asking for the ouster of Abundo "for actions inimical to the interest of Philippine chess."

It will be recalled that Abundo had accused both clubs of game-fixing during the Asian Cities Chess Championship in Tagaytay City. Abundo had apologized for his indiscretion but the aggrieved parties couldn't be appeased and asked for the head of Abundo in a petition letter they sent to Mat Defensor.

In their letter to Defensor, the petitioners said: "This reckless act of Mr. Abundo projected to the whole chess world the image that Filipinos are cheaters over the chess board."

Notice that in the news reports I had cited, it is Toti who seemed to be in hot water and not Sammy.

It is Lent and weighing Mat Defensor down with a request that he come up with a steadfast decision on the matter is farthest from my mind. I wouldn't even want Mat to think he could essay the role of Pontius Pilate in the case at bar for, if he did, who between Sammy and Toti would play either Jesus Christ or Barabbas?

I have an idea but I refuse to divulge it—for now.

Toti might not like it.

***

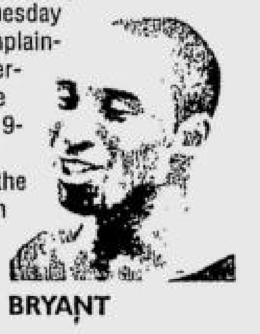
FASTBREAK. My *buloy* Al Fernandez, the ebullient Immigration Commissioner, and I will have our own retreat when we touch base this Holy Week. What kind of retreat would that be, it's a secret. Only our dear Lord Jesus Christ knows. One clue, though: It's going to be a retreat steeped in asking God to make Buloy and me nervy and steely enough in forgiving those who have wronged others.

SPORTSWATCH

The Riviera invitational April 22-25

ALL the drives will head for The Riviera on April 22-25 when the golf club's 6th Invitational Member-Guest Tournament gets underway at the Couples and Langer courses. This year's edition will mark the first time it is to be held as a four-day event. Club president Danny Pizarro decided on holding the Invitational over four days instead of the usual two to double the number of participants to 220 teams and make for a livelier affair. The Invitational will be a 36-hole event teaming a Riviera member with his/her guest. The first day format will be a net aggregate competition using the Stableford system while the second day will be a one-ball twosome format also scoring with the Stableford system. A unique side event of the Riviera Invitational will be the Calcutta draw, which will be held during the cocktail party on Friday, April 23. At stake as hole-in-one prize courtesy of Ford Alabang will be a Ford Everest and a Ford Lynx which will be raffled off as a door prize during the awarding ceremonies.

Bryant lawyers insist on prompt trial



BRYANT

DENVER—Kobe Bryant's lawyers insisted on Tuesday that they want a trial as quickly as possible, complaining that the rape case has exacted a grueling "personal and professional toll" on the NBA star. The court filing was in response to requests by the 19-year-old accuser and prosecutors urging the judge to set a trial date. Bryant's attorneys said the Los Angeles Lakers guard has always wanted an early trial date. "The accuser's false accusation of rape has exacted a personal and professional toll on Mr. Bryant that is as incalculable as it is indescribable," lawyer Hal Haddon wrote. "No one looks forward to this case being over more than Mr. Bryant." However, the defense said it would wait to enter a not guilty plea until most or all of the pretrial hearings are completed. Those hearings are scheduled well into May. Once a plea is entered in Colorado, the trial must begin within six months unless the defendant waives the right to a speedy trial. *AP*

Pakistan boxers wrest 10 gold medals

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan clinched 12 gold medals Tuesday at the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, 10 of them in boxing, as the sporting showpiece neared its close, organizers said. The haul brought the hosts' gold medal tally to 41, behind only India with 101. Third-placed Sri Lanka has seized 15 gold medals, followed by Nepal's seven and Bangladesh's three. Afghanistan and Bhutan have one gold each, while the Maldives has yet to win a medal. The most exciting encounter between Pakistan and India was on the football field overnight when the home team snatched a lone goal victory to the delight of the 5,000-strong crowd, the largest during the Games so far. The Games' closing ceremony will be held Wednesday. *AFP*

Canada claims world ice hockey crown

HALIFAX, Canada—Hayley Wickenheiser and Delaney Collins scored goals to give Canada a 2-0 victory over the United States here Tuesday in the final of the Women's World Ice Hockey Championships. Before a sellout crowd of 10,506, the hosts avenged an earlier round-robin loss to their arch rivals and continued their perfect streak of winning every global crown since the event began. Wickenheiser scored 4:17 into the second period and Collins added an unassisted insurance goal 97 seconds into the final period. The Canadians, who also beat the Americans in the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics final, withstood four US power-plays in the third period to capture the victory. Finland beat Sweden, 3-2, in the bronze medal game. *AFP*

Paradorn exempted from army service

BANGKOK—Paradorn Srichaphan's pro tennis career is safe after the Thai star on Wednesday was exempted from military conscription. "I'm excited and relieved that I've overcome this hurdle," Paradorn told The Associated Press by telephone. "From now on, I can concentrate more on training and competing." All Thai men over the age of 21 must take their chances with conscription if they do not enlist. If a district fills its quota of enlistees, conscripts need not serve. But if it comes up short, conscripts must take up the slack and face a two-year tour of duty. Apparently confident that the odds favored him, Paradorn, 24, reported Wednesday to the recruiting office in Bangkok's Prawet district, which had 63 places to fill. Sixty-five volunteers showed up, exempting Paradorn—the world-ranked No. 12 player—from military duty this year and in the future. *AP*

Commercial chessfest lures 18 teams

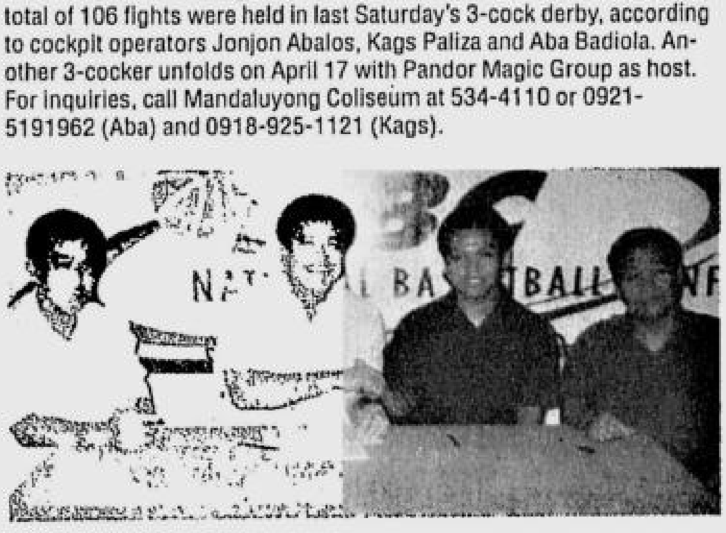
EIGHTEEN teams have confirmed their participation in the Inter Commercial Chess team tournament set April 17-18 at the Trade Hall of Starmall located at Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City. Among the companies which confirmed their participation in the P70,000 event are Yakult Phils., DECS, PNOC-EDC, BOC, San Sebastian College, OMA, Phil. Navy, PCSO, House of Representatives, BPI, BFP, DENR, DAR, BIR and DTI. Also expected to join are teams from Parañaque, Cavite Nestlé-Cabuyao, NU, DILG, SSS, Pagcor, Phil. Marines, Pagasa, Transco, DILG, BSP, GSIS, BAS, DA, DPWH, Napocor, BAI, CLSU, DOTC and CSC. Deadline for registration has been set at 7 p.m. on April 16 at MCC office in Quezon City. For details, call 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Hydro Tankers down Aqualasers

THE HYDRO Tankers whipped Valle Verde Aqualasers, 11-5, to capture the 18 and open crown in the recent Pasa 3-on-3/5 on 5 water polo age group tournament at the Rizal Memorial pool. Goalkeeper Ali Alamara and Danny de Latore sparkled to power the Rizal-based Hydro Tankers to victory in the series sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Pasa Water Polo Committee. Celebrity Sports Club's Anacondas and the Valle Verde Aqualasers prevailed in the 18-and-under and 10-and-under categories, respectively. The Anacondas spilled the Aqualasers, 9-4. The CSC bets and the Xavier team of coaches Restituto Cruz and Carding Dilapdilap finished third in the 18-and-under groups, respectively.

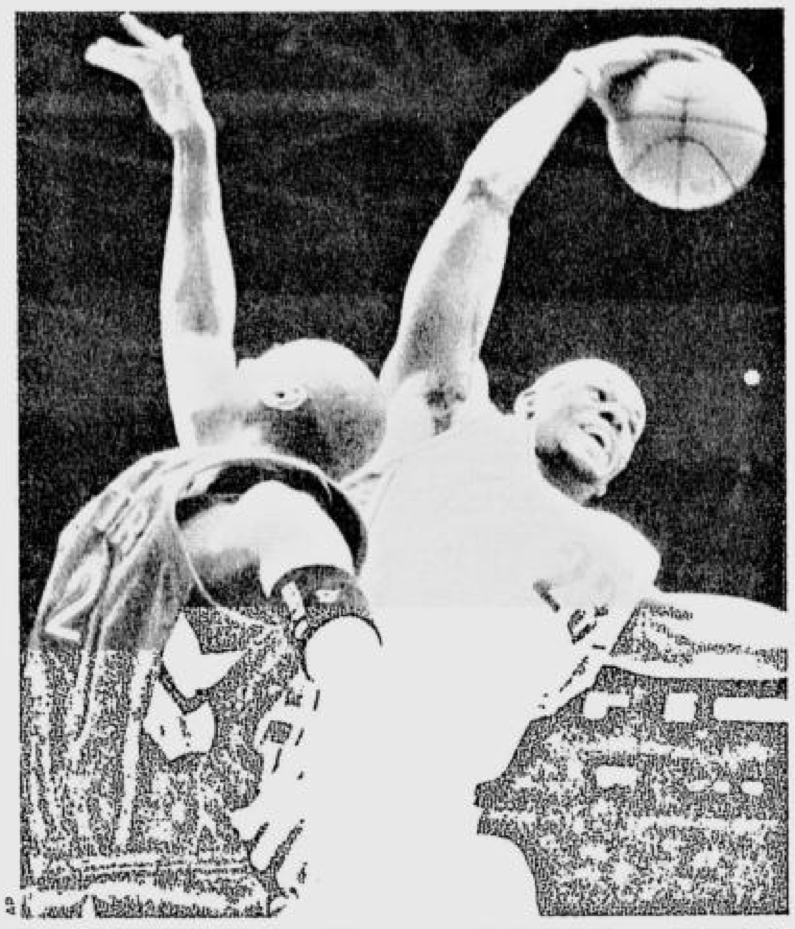
3 events set at Mandaluyong Coliseum

COCKERS will have their fill as the Mandaluyong Coliseum comes alive today, tomorrow and Saturday. set at 9 a.m. today is the special 2-cock ulutan (100 fights) with the following prizes at stake: champion, P10,000 and one washing machine; second, P8,000 and one sack of rice; third, P7,000 and one sack of rice; fourth, P6,000 and one sack of rice and fifth, P6,000 plus electric fan. Succeeding champions will get P6,000 each. Registration fee is P1,100 while minimum bet is P2,200. Another 2-cock ulutan with the same format will be held on Saturday. The Fastest kill Challenge One-Cock sizzles tomorrow. Meanwhile, a total of 106 fights were held in last Saturday's 3-cock derby, according to cockpit operators Jonjon Abalos, Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola. Another 3-cocker unfolds on April 17 with Pandor Magic Group as host. For inquiries, call Mandaluyong Coliseum at 534-4110 or 0921-5191962 (Aba) and 0918-925-1121 (Kags).



NBC CAMPAIGNER
National Basketball Conference chair Louie Kierulf (second from left) and Cagayan de Oro basketball team owner Andy Calingin shake hands to formalize CdO's participation in the NBC national championship starting next month in Baguio City and Cagayan de Oro. Witnesses are NBC sales director Dennis Cabalfin (left) and CdO team consultant Ferdinand Sanchez.

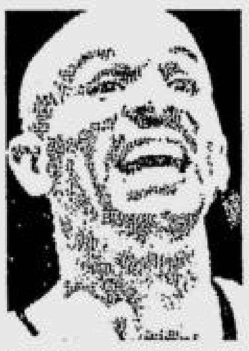
BEST COPY AVAILABLE



CAVALIERS' LeBron James (23) outrebounds Raptors' Donyell Marshall.

Pistons win; Bucks spoil Kidd return

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Rasheed Wallace had 17 points and 11 rebounds to help the Detroit Pistons hand the Orlando Magic their 11th straight loss, 102-86.



KIDD

The Pistons won for the 13th time in 15 games but also had a key loss. Starting point guard Chauncey Billups did not return after twisting his left ankle when he stepped on Tyronn Lue's foot in the third quarter.

Detroit also got 12 points from Ben Wallace and Tayshaun Prince and 11 from Richard Hamilton. No starter played more than 31 minutes.

Lue led the Magic with 21 points, and Keith Bogans added 15 points and nine rebounds.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Milwaukee Bucks spoiled the long-awaited return of All-Stars Jason Kidd and Kenyon Martin, rallying from a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to defeat the New Jersey Nets, 103-93.

Michael Redd and Desmond Mason led a late 10-0 spurt that moved Milwaukee closer to gaining home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. The Bucks increased their lead over fifth-place Miami to 1 1/2 games.

Damon Jones had 23 points and 11 assists. Redd added 21 points and Mason 18 in the Bucks' third straight win. Keith Van Horn had 13, including two big freethrows with 17 seconds to play to push the lead to five points.

Rodney Rogers had a season-high 26 points and Richard Jefferson 25 for the Nets, who welcomed back Kidd for the first time in three weeks. Martin also returned to the lineup for only the second time in that span.

In Atlanta, rookie Willie Green scored a career-high 26 points and Samuel Dalembert added 18 points and 18 rebounds to help the Philadelphia 76ers to a 103-100 win over the Hawks.

With the Sixers protecting a 101-100 lead in overtime, Eric Snow hit a jump shot with 8.6 seconds left to push the lead to three points. Bob Sura missed a last second 3-pointer to leave the Hawks 0-6 in overtime games this season. *AP*

Complete results: Philadelphia 103 Atlanta 101 [illegible] 87 Cleveland 86 Detroit 10[illegible] Orlando 86, Milwaukee [illegible] New [illegible] 9[illegible] Indiana 1[illegible] New York 86 [illegible] 118 Seattle 108; Portland 91, LA Lakers [illegible] Sacramento 10[illegible] New [illegible] 11[illegible] Golden State 97, Houston 90

UConn keeps women's title for historic sweep

NEW ORLEANS—With the incomparable Diana Taurasi leading the way, the University of Connecticut's women completed a championship sweep for the school by beating Tennessee, 70-61, for their third straight title.

The victory by the women Tuesday followed UConn's win over Georgia Tech in the men's championship game the night before, making Connecticut the first Division I school to sweep both titles.

"Unbelievable," UConn women's coach Geno Auriemma said. "It's so mind-boggling. An unbelievable accomplishment for a school."

It was the fifth title overall for the women and it came at the expense of the only other school that has won three straight championships. Tennessee and coach Pat Summitt still lead all teams with six NCAA titles, but Auriemma and the Huskies are closing fast.

They started fast in this one, racing to a 17-point lead in the first half. Tennessee got the lead down to six at halftime, closed to three early in the second half and trailed by just two after Brittany Jackson hit a 3-pointer from 3 feet behind the arc with 9:50 to play.

Connecticut (31-4) got the lead back to eight, but the Lady Vols kept coming. Ashley Robinson blocked Barbara Turner's turnaround shot, raced to the other end, caught a no-look pass from Shanna Zolman and made a layup, drawing the Lady Vols to 59-55. *AP*

Abundo-Estimo power play continues

THE NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines has suspended secretary general Sammy Estimo from further functioning pending an audit and investigation into the books and financial records of the NCFP while Estimo was in office.

Estimo's relief was contained in an NCFP board resolution signed by 10 of 15 of the federation's board of directors led by president Mat Defensor and chair Andres Gatmaitan.

Also signing the resolution were board members Gen. Arturo Carillo, NCFP vice president; Constantino Marcaida, treasurer; Juanito Calditaran, auditor; and directors Gen. Jaime Viernes Jr., Thaddeus Santos, Rey Sarmiento, Casto Abundo and Gene Poliarco.

In the resolution, the board also resolved to temporarily transfer all the functions and duties of Estimo to Abundo, the NCFP executive director, and declared that "all further dealings with Estimo will not be honored."

Estimo, on the other hand, directed Abundo to report to him, submit all NCFP documents in his possession and refrain from issuing unauthorized press releases.

"The NCFP charter is clear. The secretary general is the custodian of all records and documents. He and the president alone can issue press releases," said Estimo.

Estimo's action came on the heels of a memorandum circular signed by NCFP president Mat Defensor Tuesday calling for the maintenance of status quo in deference to the NCFP elections in July.

The memo reads:

"Please be advised that I am calling for the maintenance of status quo in the corporate set-up of our federation because we are mere holdover directors and I will soon be calling for the election of new members who will compose the directors and officers for the year 2004-2005.

"In particular, Atty. Samuel Estimo will exercise his functions as secretary general uninterruptedly, as vested on him by the NCFP By laws until and unless [illegible] fail [illegible] get his mandate in the forthcoming election mentioned above.

Estimo has been accused by the country's top chess players spearheaded by Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor and International Master Cinto Garma, of mismanaging the NCFP's affairs that virtually led to a standstill of chess development in the country.

The NCFP official still [illegible] account for the allowances given by the PSC to national players that competed in two international competitions that they failed to receive.

They include the members of the RP squad that competed in the 2002 World Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia, and the players of the national junior team that took part in the 2003 World Youth Chess Championship in Halkidiki, Greece.

In both instances, it was Estimo who received the PSC financial assistance on behalf of the NCFP.

Who is the Barabbas of chess?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SOME newspapers had reported on Wednesday terrible disunity in the local chess world.

The disunity angle is old hat.

But there's a new twist to it and that's what I'm going to discuss here today.

The central figures to Wednesday's news reports are, as usual, Sammy Estimo and Toti Abundo. Playing supporting roles are Mat Defensor, president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP), and Gene Poliarco, whom Abundo had replaced as NCFP executive director under dubious circumstances. Essaying bit parts in the story are NCFP chair Andres Gatmaitan, VP Gen. Arturo Carillo, treasurer Constantino Marcaida, auditor Juanito Calditaran, Gen. Jaime Viernes Jr., councilor Thaddeus Santos and Rey Sarmiento.

To the uninitiated, Sammy Estimo is the NCFP secretary general. Anybody will tell you that that position is the most powerful in any organization on Earth.

One story that came out in the papers on Wednesday said that Sammy Estimo had gone on leave.

The truth is, that story was a press release sent by Toti Abundo to the newspapers. In his release, Abundo said Estimo had been ordered to go on leave through a resolution signed "by 10 directors of the NCFP last March 13." The same release said Abundo had transferred the NCFP headquarters to "his unit at Midland Plaza in Ermita, Manila." Abundo said "all further dealings (by anyone) with Estimo would not be honored."

The report about Sammy Estimo going on leave isn't true. No less than Sammy Estimo has denied he was on leave.

Interviewed by Tempo, Estimo said he had not left his NCFP offices at Teacher's Village in Quezon City and branded Abundo's statement as a "bare-faced lie."

Said Estimo: "How can it be (his being on leave)? There was no quorum as only five attended (the NCFP meeting)."

Estimo's statement was corroborated by Poliarco.

"I attended the said meeting and the people present were Abundo, Gatmaitan, Marcaida, Calditaran and myself," said Poliarco as quoted by Tempo.

Estimo also told Tempo: "The document in Abundo's hand is illegal since the board meeting had no quorum, a fact supported by Poliarco."

In an alleged subsequent meeting on April 3 called again by Abundo that was intended to ratify "the illegal meeting of March 13," Estimo told Tempo that "only Gatmaitan, Marcaida and Calditaran were present."

Two things stand out here: First, Abundo transferring the NCFP headquarters to his own abode and, second, Abundo brandishing a resolution purportedly signed by 10 NCFP directors declaring Estimo to be on leave as NCFP secretary general.

The first is already a serious enough sin and Abundo could be declared guilty of usurping power if it's true that he did what he did. Who is he to transfer the NCFP headquarters all by himself? He is not even the NCFP president. Did the NCFP board know about the transfer?

The second is also that grievous and horrible enough as to merit a formal inquiry into Abundo's actuations. Certainly, a probe is in order: Did 10 directors attend the meeting as Abundo had alleged, or just five as attested by Poliarco? Remember: Poliarco had publicly admitted he was in that meeting.

Meanwhile, while all this Abundo-authored brouhaha is raging, here come the chess clubs of Mandaluyong City and Tanauan, Batangas, asking for the ouster of Abundo "for actions inimical to the interest of Philippine chess."

It will be recalled that Abundo had accused both clubs of game-fixing during the Asian Cities Chess Championship in Tagaytay City. Abundo had apologized for his indiscretion but the aggrieved parties couldn't be appeased and asked for the head of Abundo in a petition letter they sent to Mat Defensor.

In their letter to Defensor, the petitioners said: "This reckless act of Mr. Abundo projected to the whole chess world the image that Filipinos are cheaters over the chess board."

Notice that in the news reports I had cited, it is Toti who seemed to be in hot water and not Sammy.

It is Lent and weighing Mat Defensor down with a request that he come up with a steadfast decision on the matter is farthest from my mind. I wouldn't even want Mat to think he could essay the role of Pontius Pilate in the case at bar for, if he did, who between Sammy and Toti would play either Jesus Christ or Barabbas?

I have an idea but I refuse to divulge it—for now.

Toti might not like it.

FASTBREAK. My *buloy* Al Fernandez, the ebullient Immigration Commissioner, and I will have our own retreat when we touch base this Holy Week. What kind of retreat would that be, it's a secret. Only our dear Lord Jesus Christ knows. One clue, though: It's going to be a retreat steeped in asking God to make Buloy and me nervy and steely enough in forgiving those who have wronged others.

SPORTSWATCH

The Riviera invitational April 22-25

ALL the drives will head for The Riviera on April 22-25 when the golf club's 6th Invitational Member-Guest Tournament gets underway at the Couples and Langer courses. This year's edition will mark the first time it is to be held as a four-day event. Club president Danny Pizarro decided on holding the Invitational over four days instead of the usual two to double the number of participants to 220 teams and make for a livelier affair. The Invitational will be a 36-hole event teaming a Riviera member with his/her guest. The first day format will be a net aggregate competition using the Stableford system while the second day will be a one-ball twosome format also scoring with the Stableford system. A unique side event of the Riviera Invitational will be the Calcutta draw, which will be held during the cocktail party on Friday, April 23. At stake as hole-in-one prize courtesy of Ford Alabang will be a Ford Everest and a Ford Lynx which will be raffled off as a door prize during the awarding ceremonies.

Bryant lawyers insist on prompt trial

BRYANT

DENVER—Kobe Bryant's lawyers insisted on Tuesday that they want a trial as quickly as possible, complaining that the rape case has exacted a grueling "personal and professional toll" on the NBA star. The court filing was in response to requests by the 19-year-old accuser and prosecutors urging the judge to set a trial date. Bryant's attorneys said the Los Angeles Lakers guard has always wanted an early trial date. "The accuser's false accusation of rape has exacted a personal and professional toll on Mr. Bryant that is as incalculable as it is indescribable," lawyer Hal Haddon wrote. "No one looks forward to this case being over more than Mr. Bryant." However, the defense said it would wait to enter a not guilty plea until most or all of the pretrial hearings are completed. Those hearings are scheduled well into May. Once a plea is entered in Colorado, the trial must begin within six months unless the defendant waives the right to a speedy trial. *AP*

Pakistan boxers wrest 10 gold medals

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan clinched 12 gold medals Tuesday at the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, 10 of them in boxing, as the sporting showpiece neared its close, organizers said. The haul brought the hosts' gold medal tally to 41, behind only India with 101. Third-placed Sri Lanka has seized 15 gold medals, followed by Nepal's seven and Bangladesh's three. Afghanistan and Bhutan have one gold each, while the Maldives has yet to win a medal. The most exciting encounter between Pakistan and India was on the football field overnight when the home team snatched a lone goal victory to the delight of the 5,000-strong crowd, the largest during the Games so far. The Games' closing ceremony will be held Wednesday. *AFP*

Canada claims world ice hockey crown

HALIFAX, Canada—Hayley Wickenheiser and Delaney Collins scored goals to give Canada a 2-0 victory over the United States here Tuesday in the final of the Women's World Ice Hockey Championships. Before a sellout crowd of 10,506, the hosts avenged an earlier round-robin loss to their arch rivals and continued their perfect streak of winning every global crown since the event began. Wickenheiser scored 4:17 into the second period and Collins added an unassisted insurance goal 97 seconds into the final period. The Canadians, who also beat the Americans in the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics final, withstood four US power-plays in the third period to capture the victory. Finland beat Sweden, 3-2, in the bronze medal game. *AFP*

Paradorn exempted from army service

BANGKOK—Paradorn Srichaphan's pro tennis career is safe after the Thai star on Wednesday was exempted from military conscription. "I'm excited and relieved that I've overcome this hurdle," Paradorn told The Associated Press by telephone. "From now on, I can concentrate more on training and competing." All Thai men over the age of 21 must take their chances with conscription if they do not enlist. If a district fills its quota of enlistees, conscripts need not serve. But if it comes up short, conscripts must take up the slack and face a two-year tour of duty. Apparently confident that the odds favored him, Paradorn, 24, reported Wednesday to the recruiting office in Bangkok's Prawet district, which had 63 places to fill. Sixty-five volunteers showed up, exempting Paradorn—the world-ranked No. 12 player—from military duty this year and in the future. *AP*

Commercial chessfest lures 18 teams

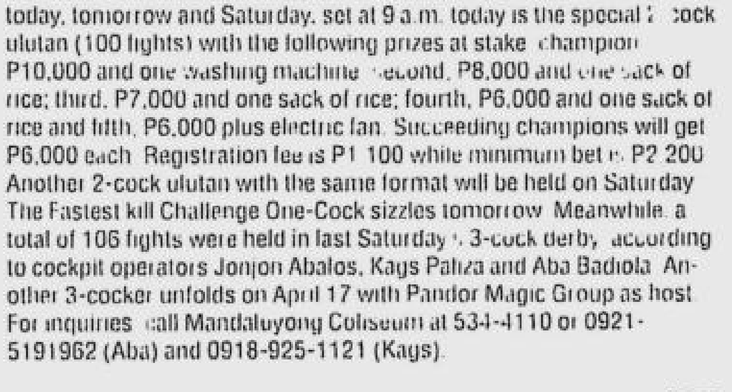
EIGHTEEN teams have confirmed their participation in the Inter Commercial Chess team tournament set April 17-18 at the Trade Hall of Starmall located at Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City. Among the companies which confirmed their participation in the P70,000 event are Yakult Phils., DECS, PNOC-EDC, BOC, San Sebastian College, OMA, Phil. Navy, PCSO, House of Representatives, BPI, BFP, DENR, DAR, BIR and DTI. Also expected to join are teams from Parañaque, Cavite Nestle-Cabuyao, NU, DILG, SSS, Pagcor, Phil. Marines, Pagasa, Trans[illegible] DILG, BSP, GSIS, BAS, DA, DPWH, Napocor, BAI, CLSU, DOTC and CSC. Deadline for registration has been set at 7 p.m. on April 16 at MCC office in Quezon City. For details, call 826-8560 and 0916-85[illegible]-1069.

Hydro Tankers down Aqualasers

THE HYDRO Tankers whipped Valle Verde Aqualasers, 11-5, to capture the 18 and open crown in the recent Pasa 3-on-3/5 on 5 water polo age group tournament at the Rizal Memorial pool. Goalkeeper Ali Alamara and Danny de Latore sparkled to power the Rizal-based Hydro Tankers to victory in the series sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Pasa Water Polo Committee. Celebrity Sports Club's Anacondas and the Valle Verde Aqualasers prevailed in the 18-and-under and 10-and-under categories, respectively. The Anacondas spilled the Aqualasers, 9-4. The CSC bets and the Xavier team of coaches Restituto Cruz and Carding Dilapdilap finished third in the 18-and-under groups, respectively.

3 events set at Mandaluyong Coliseum

COCKERS will have their fill as the Mandaluyong Coliseum comes alive today, tomorrow and Saturday. Set at 9 a.m. today is the special 2-cock ulutan (100 fights) with the following prizes at stake: champion, P10,000 and one washing machine; second, P8,000 and one sack of rice; third, P7,000 and one sack of rice; fourth, P6,000 and one sack of rice and fifth, P6,000 plus electric fan. Succeeding champions will get P6,000 each. Registration fee is P1,100 while minimum bet is P2,200. Another 2-cock ulutan with the same format will be held on Saturday. The Fastest kill Challenge One-Cock sizzles tomorrow. Meanwhile, a total of 106 fights were held in last Saturday's 3-cock derby, according to cockpit operators Jonjon Abalos, Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola. Another 3-cocker unfolds on April 17 with Pandor Magic Group as host. For inquiries, call Mandaluyong Coliseum at 534-4110 or 0921-5191962 (Aba) and 0918-925-1121 (Kags).



NBC CAMPAIGNER

National Basketball Conference chair Louie Kierulf (second from left) and Cagayan de Oro basketball team owner Andy Calingin shake hands to formalize CdO's participation in the NBC national championship starting next month in Baguio City and Cagayan de Oro. Witnesses are NBC sales director Dennis Cabalfin (left) and CdO team consultant Ferdinand Sanchez.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Woods grouped with Bjorn; Weir partners Leonard

WOODS appears happy as he walks on the seventh green during a morning practice round at Augusta. REUTERS

AUGUSTA, Georgia—World number one Tiger Woods has been grouped with Denmark's Thomas Bjorn and 2003 US amateur runner-up Casey Wittenberg for the first two rounds of the US Masters starting on Thursday.

Three-time champion Woods will launch his bid for a first major victory since the 2002 US Open at 1330 local time (1730 GMT).

"I played with Casey today, and he's 19," Woods told a news conference on Tuesday after completing his second practice round of the week.

"I was trying to remember back when I first played in my first Masters (in 1995) and I was 19 years old. It's hard to believe that it was 10 years ago."

Defending champion Mike Weir, who became the first left-hander to win a major in 40 years at Augusta last April, has been drawn with 1997 British Open champion Justin Leonard and Australia's Nick Flanagan, who edged out Wittenberg at the 37th hole for last year's US amateur title.

British Open champion Ben Curtis will tee off with New Zealand's Michael Campbell and Fredrik Jacobson of Sweden. *Reuters*

US MASTERS

Vijay sets sights on Tiger, world number 1 ranking

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Vijay Singh has Tiger in his sights and will take another shot at the world number one at this week's US Masters.

This season, Singh, the 2000 Masters champion, has made clear that it is Tiger Woods' number-one ranking he is stalking and slipping on a green jacket for a second time would take him another big step towards accomplishing that objective.

Woods has ruled supreme in the rankings since regaining top spot at the 1999 US PGA championship but, without a major victory for almost two years, his aura of invincibility has faded.

With Woods faltering, the tall Fijian has seized his opportunity, picking up where he left off last year when a blinding finish to the season allowed him to end Woods's four-year reign as the PGA Tour's leading money winner.

Carrying his form into the new season, Singh got his 2004 campaign underway with victory at the prestigious Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, helping to narrow the gap even further.

"Well, I think he (Woods) is still very intimidating when he's up there just because he's been up there for so long," said Singh. "But I think the standard of play has just lifted a little bit.

"You know, Tiger is Tiger.

"I don't know if he's not playing well now or he just is waiting for the majors, I have no idea.

"I just speak for the rest of the guys; I think our play has gone a step higher, and that's closed the gap, if there was one.

"And it's not the top guys that are doing it.

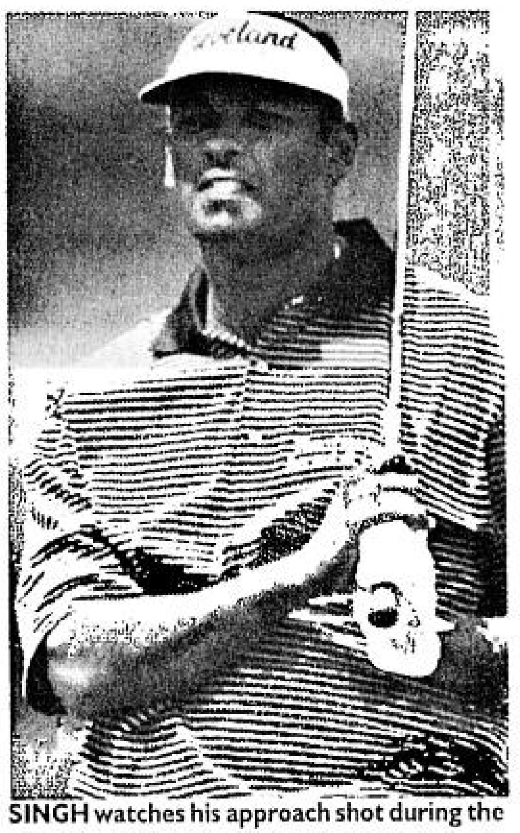
"Mickelson has taken another level up this year, and obviously I'm playing quite decent. The rest of the guys are doing the same thing."

In some circles, Singh has already moved ahead of Woods.

The well-respected Golfweek magazine, calculating the rankings over a 52-week period rather than the two-year period used for the official rankings, has Singh holding down top spot.

"It's good to know that there's another ranking out there," smiled Singh.

"But I really follow the Sony World Ranking, and in that I am No. 2 and that's the way the whole world looks at it." *Reuters*



SINGH watches his approach shot during the second practice round. AFP

Davenport, Pierce advance; Navratilova loses at Amelia

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida—Former champions Lindsay Davenport and Mary Pierce advanced in the Bausch & Lomb Championships on Tuesday, but Martina Navratilova lost in her first tour singles match since 2002.

Navratilova, 47, lost to unheralded Milagros Sequera of Venezuela, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2. Sequera replaced Kristina Brandi of Puerto Rico, who withdrew with plantar fasciitis in her left foot.

Navratilova impressed to win the first set, but lost the last four games of the second, and lost her serve twice to fall behind 3-0 in the third. She rallied to 3-2 down, but was broken again in the seventh game.

"I lost it mentally," Navratilova said. "I was in and out the last two sets."

Afterward, she received a standing ovation.

"It was sweet," Navratilova said. "The people were obviously excited. It was great to be out there."

After a first-round bye, Davenport beat Tian Tian Sun of China, 6-2, 7-5, to begin her quest for a second title this season. She won in 1997 and was runner-up last year.

Pierce was in no mood for more drama against Meghann Shaughnessy, whom she dispatched, 6-1, 6-2, in the first round with 43 winners in an hour.

In their only previous matchup last November in the Fed Cup final, Pierce won 8-6 in the third set to help France beat the United States for its second title.

Pierce, a three-time finalist before finally winning in 1998, hasn't played for two months and will next face second-seeded Serena Williams, who won the Nasdaq-100 Open on Sunday following an eight-month layoff.

No. 8-seeded Vera Zvonareva of Russia battled past Tina Pisnik of Slovenia, 6-3, 1-6, 7-5, and will meet No. 12 Patty Schnyder, who routed Marie-Gayanay Mikaelian, 6-1, 6-0, in an all-Swiss match.

Also, No. 9 Paola Suarez of Argentina defeated Mara Santangelo of Italy, 6-2, 6-3. *AP*

NAVRATILOVA reacts to a close point early in the first set of her match against Sequera. AP

Monaco ousts Real Madrid from Champions League

MONACO—Monaco eliminated Real Madrid from the Champions League, with two goals from Ludovic Giuly and another from Fernando Morientes creating the stunning 3-1 upset Tuesday that sent the Mediterranean side into the semifinals.

Madrid's single goal from Raul Gonzalez was not enough to keep the Spanish giants in Europe's biggest club competition. The star-studded side had gone into the second leg with a comfortable 4-2 lead earned at home on March 24.

But Monaco's two away goals from that night proved decisive. With the aggregate score over two legs tied at 5-5 after Tuesday's return match, Monaco went through because it scored more away goals. They next play London side Chelsea, who ousted Arsenal.

"Everybody writes their own story, and the players are writing a superb page for Monaco and all of French football" said Monaco coach Didier Deschamps. "It wasn't easy but we deserved it. It's proof that in football, anything can happen. You just have to believe until the end."

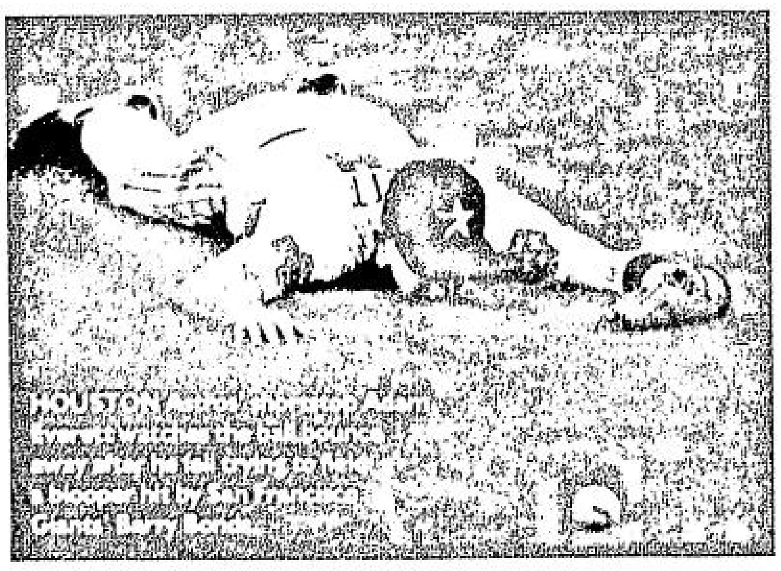
"This is exceptional," he said.

Madrid star Zinedine Zidane was despondent.

"Very bad," he said. "That's the way things are. What can I say? We'll have to look at it more calmly later."

Until stoppage time of the first half, everything appeared to be going the way of the overwhelming pre-match favorites, nine-time champions Real.

A sprinting Ronaldo created the first goal. *AP*



HOUSTON [illegible] a blooper hit by San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds.

Korean Choi leads Marlins past Expos

MIAMI—In a lineup with seven players who started the final game of the World Series, Florida Marlins newcomer Hee Seop Choi of South Korea made the biggest impact.

Choi drove in three runs to help the defending champions beat the Montreal Expos 4-3 Tuesday in their season opener. His two-run homer traveled an estimated 419 feet (128 meters), his RBI grounder went 100 feet (35 meters).

Matt Perisho earned the victory by retiring Brian Schneider with the bases loaded to end the eighth, and Armando Benitez survived a home run and double in the ninth for the save. Both are new to Florida's revamped bullpen. *AP*

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CLOSED TODAY	CLOSED TODAY	CLOSED TODAY
CLOSED TODAY	CLOSED TODAY	CLOSED TODAY

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

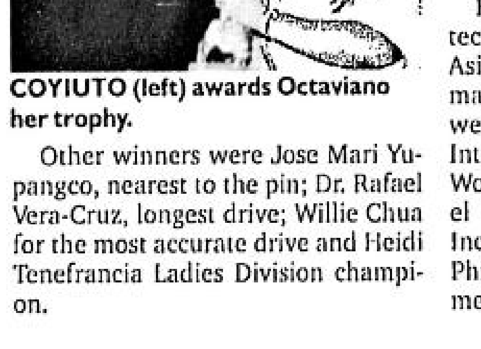
Octaviano, Villanueva triumph

CYNTHIA Dayrit Octaviano clinched the low gross plum with a 79 while Leo Villanueva netted 70 for the low net award in the 1st Life Cup 2004 golf tournament held in honor of First Life President and CEO Peter Coyiuto recently at the Manila Golf Club course inside Forbes Park in Makati.

Fifty golfers representing valued clients and friends of First Life joined the tournament.

Awards were given to the top golfers during the "Evening of Glory and Glamour" held at the Manila Polo Club.

Champions in various divisions were Jerry Ti for Class C, Willie Chua for Class B and lawyer Frank Figura Class A champion.



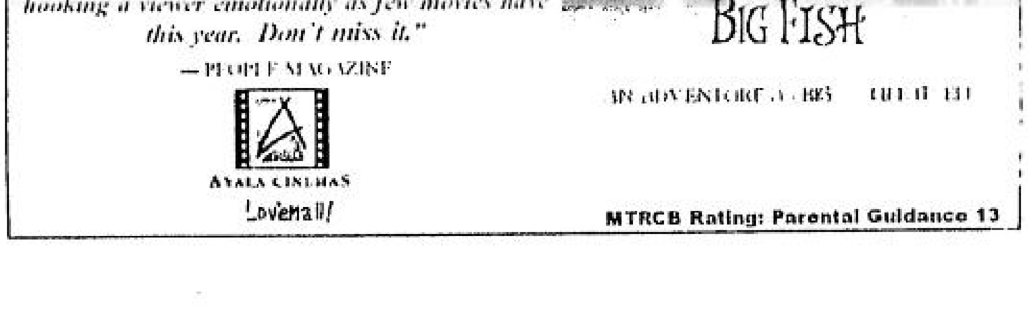
COYIUTO (left) awards Octaviano her trophy.

Other winners were Jose Mari Yupangco, nearest to the pin; Dr. Rafael Vera-Cruz, longest drive; Willie Chua for the most accurate drive and Heidi Tenefrancia Ladies Division champion.

Major raffle winners were Carlos Tanbio, Charles Cheng and Edgar Ti, who won a round-trip ticket to Hong Kong.

Major sponsors were Washington watches for the hole-in-one prize worth 300,000 and Prudential Guarantee.

Hole sponsors were G&W Architects, Furn Italia, Canon, PBCom, Asiatrust, Intellicare and RCG Information Technology. Other donors were Ricardo Enriquez, Aristocrat Interiors, Planters Bank, Canyon Woods, Icon Interiors, Cencorp Travel and Tours, Tradetek Resources Inc., Nissan UN Avenue, Schering Philippines Corp. and Bank of Commerce.



OPENS APRIL 14 ONLY AT
GLORIETTA 4 &
GREENBELT 1 CINEMAS
Ewan McGregor
Danny De Vito Jessica Lange
TIM BURTON'S
BIG FISH
A visually stunning and an emotionally haunting human epic. BIG FISH is a majestic motion picture that delves into a fabled relationship between a father & his son.
"A brilliantly fantastical film from inventive director Tim Burton... BIG FISH ends up hooking a viewer emotionally as few movies have this year. Don't miss it."
— PEOPLE MAGAZINE
AYALA CINEMAS
Lovemall!
BIG FISH
AN ADVENTURE [illegible]
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Tours, Leisure & Chow

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
697-8008 local 209 and 238

Enjoy the cool breezes while dining al fresco and listening to soothing acoustic music.

Where to Stay Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel (02) 899-1111 Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/Fax. (046) 413-1225

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332) 232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

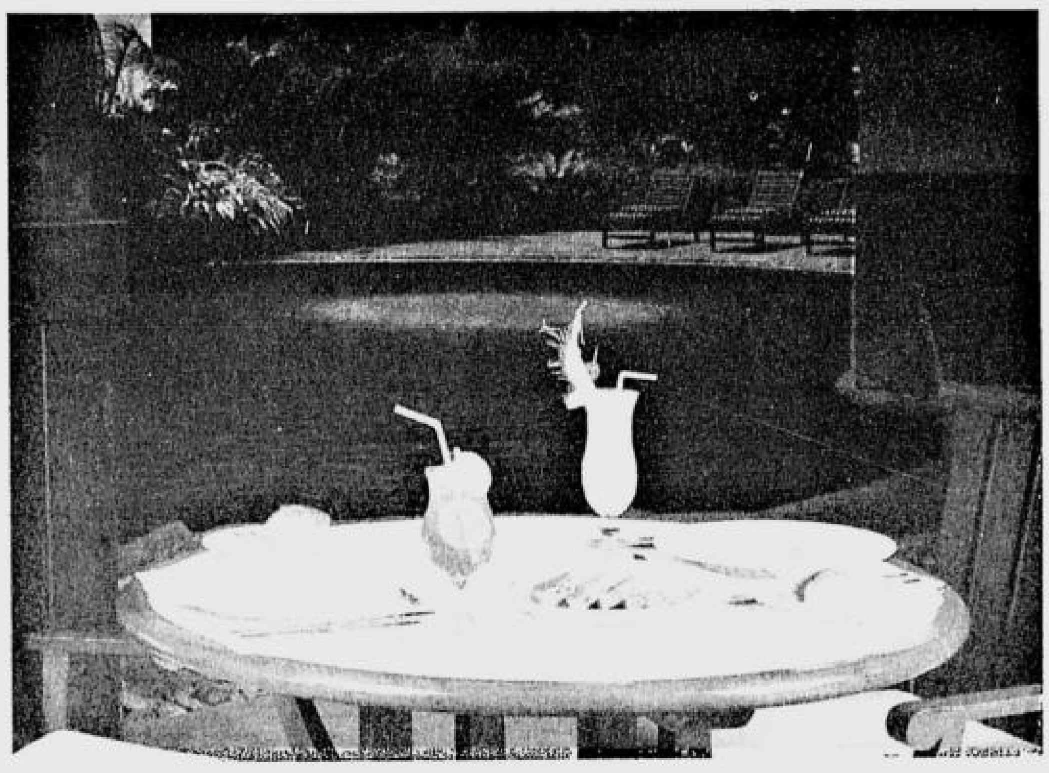
Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax. 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax. 818-8254

Fun weekend dinner barbecues at The Bellevue Hotel



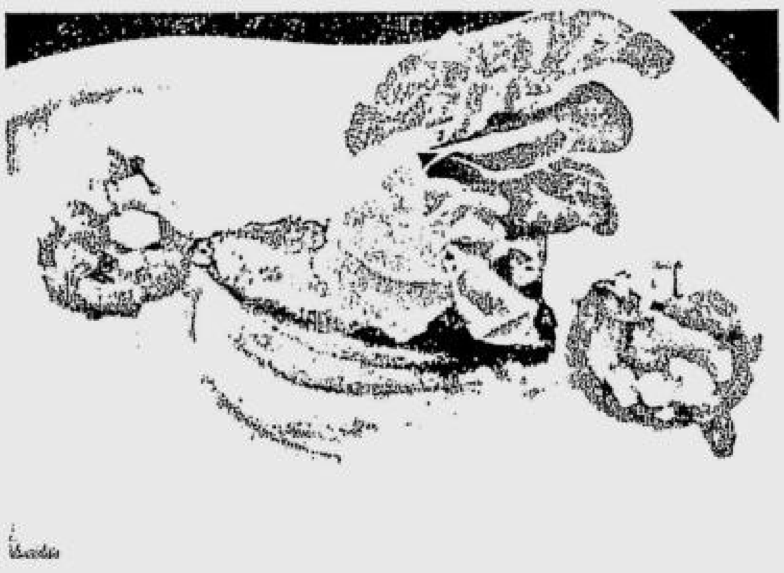
SUMMER is one of the best times to spend with friends and family. As the summer sun looms high above the metropolis, The Bellevue Hotel gives kids and their parents a most refreshing way to spend the weekend.

The Bellevue Weekend Dinner Barbecue is available every Fridays to. Sundays at The Bellevue's Poolside—a lush tropical getaway that lends a pleasant ambience to uplift tired souls. Enjoy the cool breezes while dining *al fresco* and listening to soothing acoustic music.

Watch the kids soak up the sun and play by the hotel's swimming pool, after which they can choose from a wide selection of tender and succulent barbecues and fresh fruit juices to reenergize. For those who wish to be pampered, the gym, spa and salon are but a few steps away, offering a broad range of Eastern and Western face and body treatments.

The Bellevue's Weekend Dinner Barbecue promo is available from 5 to 10 p.m. for an introductory price of only P490+. Quality moments with family are best spent at Alabang's premier business and leisure venue—The Bellevue Hotel. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

American Cassanova at Bocarinos



THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel's stylish and modern restaurant Bocarinos features the American Cassanova for the months of March and April. Experience the grand history of Italy and the hip young culture of California combined in a fusion of food offered for lunch and dinner in the "Perfect Bite" menu. The Perfect Bite Menu is a four-course set menu for lunch and dinner that includes selections from our daily variety of appetizers, soup of the day, main course, and an array of tempting desserts priced at P965+. Sample creative dishes such as Saffron Risotto with Shrimp, Chive Oil and Chili Oil, Angel Hair and Pan-Cooked Sea Bass with Sun Dried Tomatoes, Chili, Parsley and Black Olives, Basil Tortellini with Roasted Garlic Mussels and Fresh and Chunky Tomato Sauce, among other delicious Call-talian combinations.

Bocarinos is open Mondays to Fridays, 11:30 to 2 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m. On Saturdays, it is open from 6 to 10 p.m.

For more information and reservations, call 811 6888 extension 3318.

Dusit Hotel Nikko's 'What A Basket!'

KIDS, use your creativity to make that one-of-a-kind Easter Basket and win wonderful prizes at Dusit Hotel Nikko's "Easter Wonderland" on April 11. Those aged 3-10 years old can join by simply presenting their jazzed-up baskets at the registration area. Creativity and relevance to the theme account for 40 percent each, viewers' choice is 20 percent.

Dusit Hotel Nikko's "Easter Wonderland" lets families enjoy Easter through a family egg hunt where accommodation in beach resorts, toys, pets and more await winning families.

To join, guests must avail themselves of the Easter Sunday Brunch Buffet at The Café or dine in any of the hotel's outlets on Sunday. A minimum single receipt of P850 gets free access to the event. Option to pre-pay P850 for dining in any outlet can be done at the ballroom entrance. Walk-in rate is P350 per person.

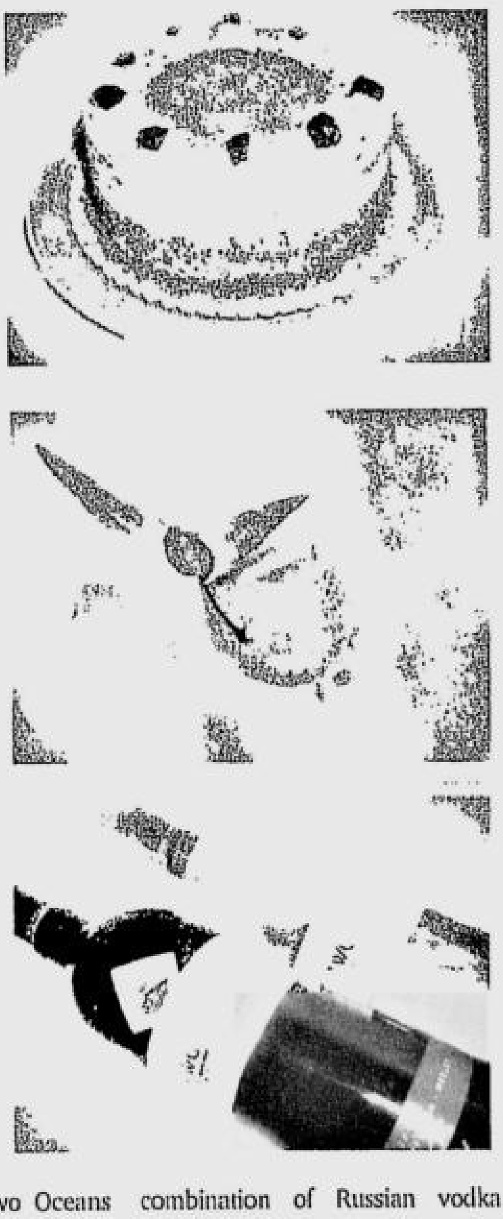
Guests availing themselves of the Easter Family Room Rates pegged at P1,950 per person (twin sharing with breakfast) or the P2,800++ for room accommodation only will get a discounted rate of P250 for access to Easter Wonderland at the grand ballroom.

The event was made possible with the support of Viva Mineral Water, Nestea, Nido Milky Bars, Milo Chocolate Bars, Silver Cup Chocolates, Nestlé Ice Cream, Smarties, Columbia's, M&M, Tender Juicy Hotdogs, Purefoods Chicken Nuggets, Regent Food Corp, Filstar Distributions Corp, Coralyn, Learning is Fun, Richwell Trading, Kidz Station, Little Tikes, Brittany Corp, Leslie's Corp, Pearl Farm, Maribago Blue Water, Waling-Waling Beach Resort, and Tambuli Beach Resort. For queries, call 867-3333 extension 3252-3254.

DEPARTMENT OF OB GYNE OF PGH
MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANNING

UP-PGH CONFAB AT THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL
UP-PGH's OB gynecology department recently held its management action planning, sponsored by Pfizer, at the Executive Plaza Hotel's Aguinaldo ballroom. Shown are (from left) medical representative Dhel Arevalo, district manager Mabel Callera, area sales manager Ana Pochola Cuadra, medical representative Tina Adaza, district manager Dennis San Pedro, medical representative Roderick Betos and Executive Plaza Hotel banquet account manager Jhoanna Jose.

Waterfront Airport Hotel's April cool temptations



WATERFRONT Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan cools your summer as it brings you April Cool Temptations.

Enjoy every bite of "Ube Prune Delight", a double layer of violet yam cake decked with prune flavored icing. Available for the whole month at the Lobby Lounge and all outlets. Prized at P850 (net) for the whole cake and P85 (net). per slice.

Wines of the month are the Two Oceans Sauvignon Blanc and Two Oceans Sauvignon Merlot. The white wine Two Oceans Sauvignon Blanc is elegant but crisp with ripe gooseberry flavors backed with tropical fruits and a hint of grassiness that lingers long on the aftertaste. It is ideal with fish and light poultry dishes. Meanwhile, the red Two Oceans Sauvignon Merlot is very smooth with ripe strawberry and cherry aromas carried through on the palate. It is ideal with most red meat dishes. Both are served at P1,200 (net) per bottle and P200 per glass.

Quench your thirst with this refreshing concoction called "Hot Lips". Feel the spicy and aromatic combination of Russian vodka, strawberry liquor, grand marnier, rose water and aromatic spices to tickle your imagination. Priced at P180 (net) per glass and P200 (net) per glass for room service. This is available from April 1 to 30 in all outlets.

For more inquiries, call the Manila sales and reservations office at 687-0888.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL
6331901
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 2 3 4
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

North

SM CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2013 to 17
1 2 3 4
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 2 3 4 5 6
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505
1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PETER PAN
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS
8066888
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY BICUTAN
7763055
1 2 3 4
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8294975
1 2 3 4
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY BACOOR
(046)4173868
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80
1 2 3 4
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU
(032) 2313876
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY ILOILO
(033) 3209422
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

SM CITY DAVAO
(082) 2976998
1 2 3 4 5 6
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

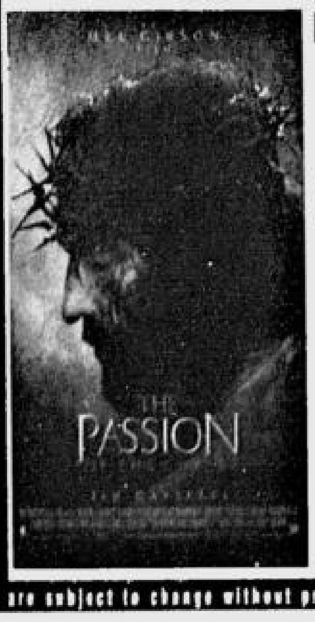
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884
1 2 3 4
CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

THE PODIUM CINEMA

CLOSED
in observance of the Lenten Season

Cinema Operations will resume on April 10, 2004 (Saturday)

SM CINEMA now showing



Showing only at
SM City Baguio Cinema 1 & 4

MTRCB Rating: P13

for screening schedules :
(074)446-4505

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 CLOSED	1 CLOSED	Artfilm 1 CLOSED	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 CLOSED	THX 1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED	2 CLOSED	2 CLOSED	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 CLOSED	2 CLOSED
3 CLOSED	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 CLOSED	Onstage REPERTORY'S CAUGHT IN THE NET April 16 17 18 23 24 25 & 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CLOSED	3 CLOSED
4 CLOSED	4 CLOSED		4 CLOSED	4 CLOSED
	5 CLOSED		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CLOSED	5 CLOSED
	6 CLOSED			
	7 CLOSED			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 50 FIRST DATE
3 TAKING LIVES
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6 TAKING LIVES
7 PETER PAN
8 SCOOBY DOO-2
9 UNINVITED
10 PETER PAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 TAKING LIVES
4 PETER PAN

Masagana CINEMA 0040
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 GRUDGE-2
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 PUNLA

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 TAKING LIVES
PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) HOUSE OF THE DEAD
5

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 VENUS
2 HOUSE OF THE DEA
3 TAKING LIVES
4 UNINVITED
5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6 PETER PAN

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 SCOOBY DOO-2
2 VENUS

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 892.2503

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SHIRI
2 GOTHIKA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
5 RESERVE
6
7
8
9

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
2 PETER PAN
3 UNINVITED
4 TAKING LIVES
5 RESERVE
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
7 RESERVE
8 OTSO OTSO
9 KARIBAL

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 RESERVE
2
3
4
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 HIGHWAY MEN
2 OTSO OTSO
3 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
4 KASIPING
5 SCOOBY DOO 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson THE LOVER
Lords GOOD LAWYERS WIFE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 UNINVITED
3 TAKING LIVES
4 PETER PAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PETER PAN
3 UNINVITED
4 TAKING LIVES
5 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030, 879.2029
1 PASSION OF CHRIST
2 OTSO OTSO

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. 021-8343-8400
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 PASSION OF CHRIST
4 TAKING LIVES
5 PETER PAN
6 HOUSE
7 HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 PASSION OF CHRIST
2 DON'T TEMPT ME
3 PASSION OF CHRIST
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOOZEN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 WISE GIRL
2 PASSION OF CHRIST
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOOZEN
4 PASSION OF CHRIST

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 OTSO OTSO
2 GRUDGE-2
3 50 FIRST DATE
4 TORQUE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 PASSION OF CHRIST
2 TAKING LIVES
3 PETER PAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THE GRUDGE-2
2 TAKING LIVES
3 PASSION OF CHRIST
4 PETER PAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 THE GRUDGE-2
2 PETER PAN
3 PASSION OF CHRIST
4 TAKING LIVES

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 50 FIRST DATE
2 TORQUE
3 GHOST HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1
2 50 FIRST DATE
3 THE GATHERING
4 SCOOBY DOO-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320
1 SCOOBY DOO-2
2 HIDALGO
3 GHOST HOUSE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
2 KARIBAL
3 VENUS
4

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 PETER PAN
2 VENUS
3 PASSION OF CHRIST
4 TAKING LIVES
5 THE CURSE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 PASSION OF CHRIST
2 TAKING LIVES

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 PASSION OF CHRIST
2 TAKING LIVES
3

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 OTSO OTSO
2 BUFALLO
3 HAUNTED OFFICE
4 SCOOBY DOO-2

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914
1 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DON'T TEMPT ME
2 GRUDGE-2
3 HIDALGO
4 TAKING LIVES

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 GHOST HOUSE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

A TIMELY LENTEN PRESENTATION
of the most controversial film of the year
ONLY at EASTWOOD CINEMAS
OPEN on HOLY THURSDAY and GOOD FRIDAY

Cinema 1	Cinema 2
PETER PAN Screening Time 11:30 am/1:40 pm/3:50 pm 6:00 pm/8:10 pm/10:20 pm Rating : GP	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST Screening Time 12:30 pm/3:30 pm/5:30 pm 8:00 pm/10:30 pm Rating : PG - 13
Cinema 3	**Cinema 4**
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST Screening Time 11:45 am/2:15 pm/4:45 pm 7:15 pm/9:45 pm Rating : PG - 13	SCOOBY-DOO 2 Screening Time 11:35 am/ 1:40 pm/3:45 pm 5:50 pm/7:55 pm/10:00 pm Rating : GP

* All screening schedules are subject to change without prior notice

For Inquires, please call:
687 6963 / 687 6972

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

More spiritual projects coming up

A COUPLE of weeks ago, we hoped that the exceptional artistic and box office success of "The Passion of The Christ" would launch a trend for spiritual productions. Well, it looks like **Mel Gibson**'s film has prompted other producers and filmmakers to initiate some like-minded projects.

In the States, the ABC TV network recently telecast the long-delayed "Judas," a movie about the apostle who betrayed Jesus. And NBC has approved the production of the pilot episode of a new series partly based on the Book of Revelation.

Not a religious movie per se but a production with a distinctly inspiring and illuminating premise is the film version of **C.S. Lewis**' famous "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

The Walt Disney Studios has announced that it has entered into an agreement with Walden Media to co-finance and distribute the motion picture adaptation, which will be released by Christmas next year.

When "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" was staged locally some years ago, its spiritual elements were highlighted, and Disney could do the same.

The Chronicles are about a war between good and evil, pitting the magnificent lion Aslan against the forces of darkness in the magical world of Narnia.

A White Witch has used her dark powers to keep Narnia in winter for 100 years, but it is foretold that four humans will be able to help Aslan break the spell.

When the Pevensie children (Lucy, Susan, Edmund and Peter) discover the magic of Narnia by entering the enchanted world through a wardrobe, the stage is set for a classic moral battle of epic proportions.

Locally, Regal Films' **Mother Lily** has announced that she will produce a film on the miracle of roses in Lipa, Batangas. Another religious production in the works is a new film on **St. Lorenzo Ruiz.**

And, on April 8 (Maundy Thursday) at 3 p.m. White Windows Film Productions' "Sa Kandungan ng Langit" ("Heaven's Cradle") will be telecast on GMA 7.

White Windows' VP **Nelvy Sacramento** informs us that the digital film written and directed by **Gina Marissa Tagasa**, was made "to bring forth the timeless message of love, sacrifice and faith in God in a true Biblical context—the same vision the inspiring film 'The Passion of The Christ' has shared with the world."

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

OPEN ON APRIL 9
(Friday)

1 **PETER PAN**
11:30, 1:40, 3:50
6:00, 8:10, 10:20
GP

2 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
PG-13

3 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
PG-13

4 **SCOOBY-DOO 2**
11:35, 1:40, 3:45
5:50, 7:55, 10:00
GP

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Ali 3	THE PASSION (CLOSED-REOPENS SAT.)
Ali 4	TAKING LIVES (CLOSED-OPENS SAT.)
Ali 5	PETER PAN (CLOSED-REOPENS SAT.)
Ali 6	HOUSE OF THE DEAD (CLOSED-REOPENS SAT.)
Ali 7	THE UNINVITED (CLOSED-REOPENS SAT.)

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL

Open Daily 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

APR 8	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (1PM)
APR 9	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (1PM)
APR 10	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (2PM)
APR 11	PBA: FED EX VS. RED BULL
APR 13	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
APR 14	PBA: PUREFOODS VS. RED BULL
APR 15	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
APR 16	REWIND PLUS DOBLE REVO DOUBLE PREMYO
APR 17	18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LORD'S FLOCK

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
PASSION OF THE CHRIST
10:50, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
P13

CINEMA 2

Special screening of PASSION OF THE CHRIST on Holy Thursday.
Advance ticket purchase for PASSION OF THE CHRIST is also available. • 722 4496
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

MUSIC MUSEUM

APR 18 25	"MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL"	4:00PM
APR 13 14 26 27	"GARY V."	8:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KASIPING
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OTSO OTSO
CINEMA-2	KARIBAL
CINEMA-3	MAGNIFICO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HAUNTED OFFICE
CINEMA-6	GRUDGE 2
CINEMA-7	TORQUE
CINEMA-8	HIGHWAYMEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PASSION OR THE CHRIST
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-12	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-14	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
CINEMA-15	50 FIRST DATES

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	THE CURSE
CINEMA-1	OTSO OTSO
CINEMA-2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
CINEMA-4	DRAGON VS. NINJA

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

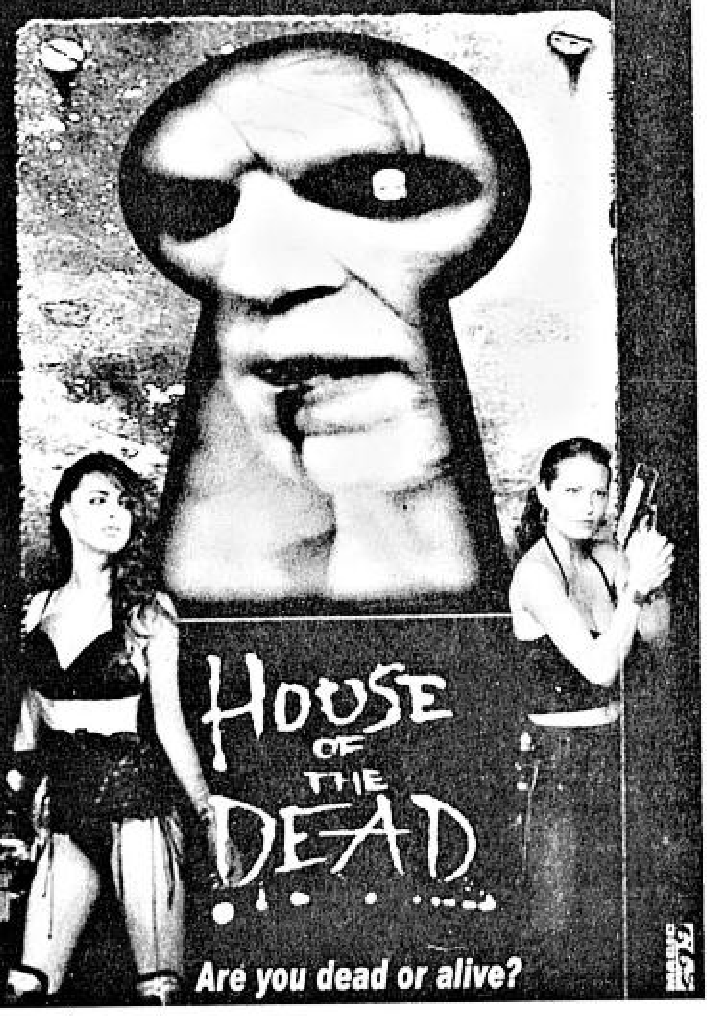
2ND WEEK

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18

Kung nagustuhan mo ang "UNDERWORLD", mas grabe pa 'to sa aksiyon at katatakutan.

From the company that gave you "UNDERWORLD."

HUMANS vs. ZOMBIES
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?


HOUSE OF THE DEAD
Are you dead or alive?

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

ANGELINA JOLIE
ETHAN HAWKE
KIEFER SUTHERLAND
OLIVIER MARTINEZ
JEAN-HUGUES ANGLADE
TAKING LIVES
He would Kill to be You
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A MARK CANTON PRODUCTION ANGELINA JOLIE ETHAN HAWKE "TAKING LIVES"
KIEFER SUTHERLAND OLIVIER MARTINEZ TCHEKY KARYO JEAN-HUGUES ANGLADE AND GENA ROWLANDS ALAN C. BLOMQUIST
PHILIP GLASS ANNE V. COATES, A.C.E. TOM SOUTHWELL AMIR MOKRI BRUCE BERMAN DANA GOLDBERG AND DAVID HEYMAN
MICHAEL PYE JON BOKENKAMP MARK CANTON BERNIE GOLDMANN D.J. CARUSO

OPENS APRIL 10!

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

CALL MOVIEWORLD BRANCHES 635-5555

TOP MOVIE THEATER

Annual National Consumor's Quality Award 2003
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA
632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

CINEMA 1 THX **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

2 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3 **PETER PAN** Sneak Preview 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45
4 **50 FIRST DATES** 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
5 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
6 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
7 **SCOOBY DOO 2** 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
8 **LOVE ACTUALLY** 10.40, 1.25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
9 **HOUSE OF THE DEAD** 10.50, 1.00, 3.10, 5:20, 7:30
10 **THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT** 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:30

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA
526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 11:10, 1:50, 4.30, 7:10, 10:00
2 **SCOOBY DOO 2** 10:15, 12 10, 2 05, 4 00, 5:55, 7:50, 9 50
3 **50 FIRST DATES** 10.50, 1:00, 3:10, 5.20, 7:30, 9:50
4 **HOUSE OF THE DEAD** 11.05, 1:10, 3:15, 5.20, 7.45, 9.40
5 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10 30, 1 10, 3 50, 6 30, 9 20,
6 **PETER PAN** Sneak Preview 11.30, 2 00, 4.30, 7:00, 9.40,
7 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10:30, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:20

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 **HOUSE OF THE DEAD** 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
2 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35
3 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 11 55, 2.35, 5.15, 7.55, 10:35
4 **50 FIRST DATES** 10:50, 12 50, 2.50, 4:50, 6:50, 9.00
5 **SCOOBY DOO 2** 10.50, 12.50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50
6 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 12 35, 3 15, 5 55, 8:35
7 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 12 35, 3 15, 5 55, 8 35
8 **PETER PAN** Sneak Preview 1:05, 3:45, 6:35, 9:05

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

1 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10:10, 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8.50
2 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10:10, 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50
3 **HOUSE OF THE DEAD** 12 00, 2 00, 4 00, 6 00, 8 00
4 **OTSO-OTSO** 11:45, 1:55, 4 05, 6:15, 8 30
5 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 11 30, 2.10, 4.50, 7.30
6 **SCOOBY DOO 2** 11:25, 1:15, 3.05, 4:55, 6:45, 8.35
7 **50 FIRST DATES** 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6.00, 8:10
8 **PETER PAN** Sneak Preview 11 20, 1.35, 3.50, 6 05, 8.30

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

1 **PETER PAN** Sneak Preview
2 **OTSO-OTSO**
3 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
4 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**

big Supercenter CAINTA
240-4661

1 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
2 **OTSO-OTSO**
3 **PETER PAN** Sneak Preview
4 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA
Laguna (049)837-0907

1 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
2 **THE CURSE**
3 **PETER PAN** Sneak Preview
4 **THE GRUDGE 2**
5 **HIDALGO**

Big R Supercenter LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

1 **50 FIRST DATES**
2 **OTSO-OTSO**
3 **THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT**
4 **KARIBAL**
5 **SCOOBY DOO 2**

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS
852-2125

1 **SCOOBY DOO 2**
2 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
3 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
4 **OTSO-OTSO**
5 **50 FIRST DATES**

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS
875-1927 / 961-5270

1 **50 FIRST DATES**
2 **THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT**
3 **SCOOBY DOO 2**
4 **THE NIGHTMARE**
5 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
6 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**

IMUS
471-8188 / 875-5858

1 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
2 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
3 **SCOOBY DOO 2**
4 **HOUSE OF THE DEAD**
5 **OTSO-OTSO**
6 **PETER PAN** Sneak Preview

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

1 **TORQUE**
2 **HIDALGO**
3 **LOVE ACTUALLY**
4 **GOTHIKA**
5 **SCOOBY DOO 2**
6 **OTSO-OTSO**

ILOILO
336-8070/78

1 **TORQUE**
2 **GOTHIKA**
3 **LOVE ACTUALLY**
4 **THE NIGHTMARE**
5 **BONE SNATCHER**
6 **SCOOBY DOO 2**

THE PASSION

See it at its BEST

House of the Dead

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

SOON TO OPEN!!!

Robinsons Movieworld
Angeles, Pampanga

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

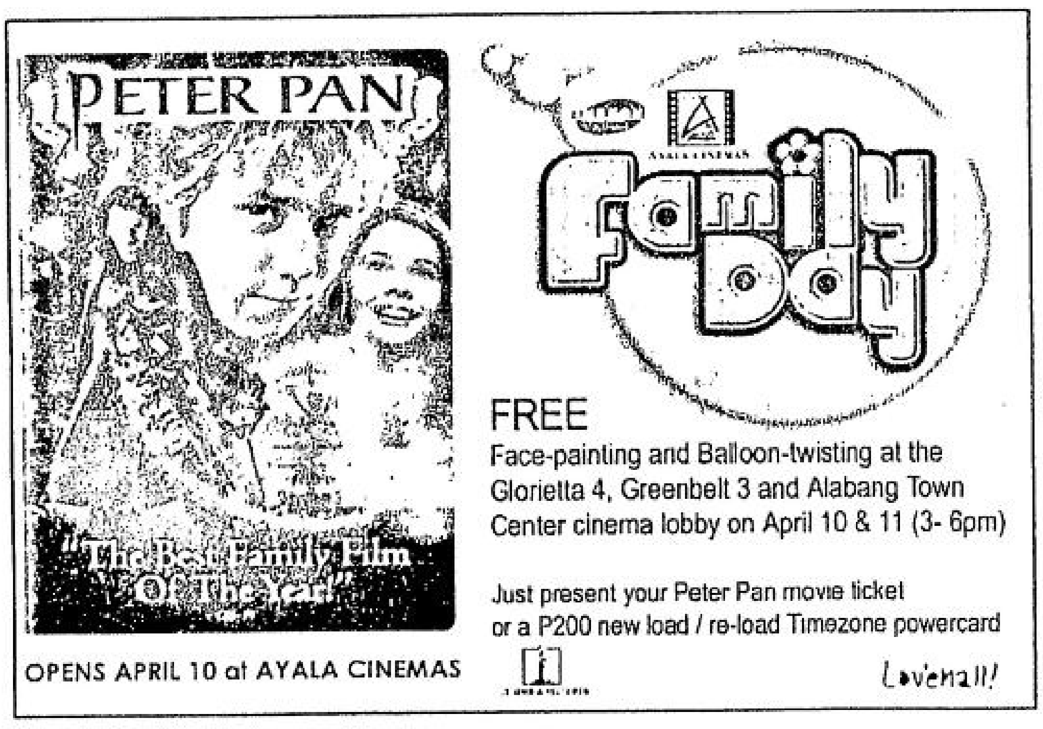
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18
Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted
SASAPIAN KA NG MULTO SA ABRIL 10.
Wala pang mas nakakasindak dito!
the ghost is invited to dinner at your house.
the Uninvited
Jeon Ji-Hyun
(the star of My Sassy Girl)
Park Shin-Yang

PoPCorn TrEat at Robinsons Movieworld Sta. Rosa • MalaBon

Get a FREE plain popcorn for a single minimum purchase of TWO (2) tickets.

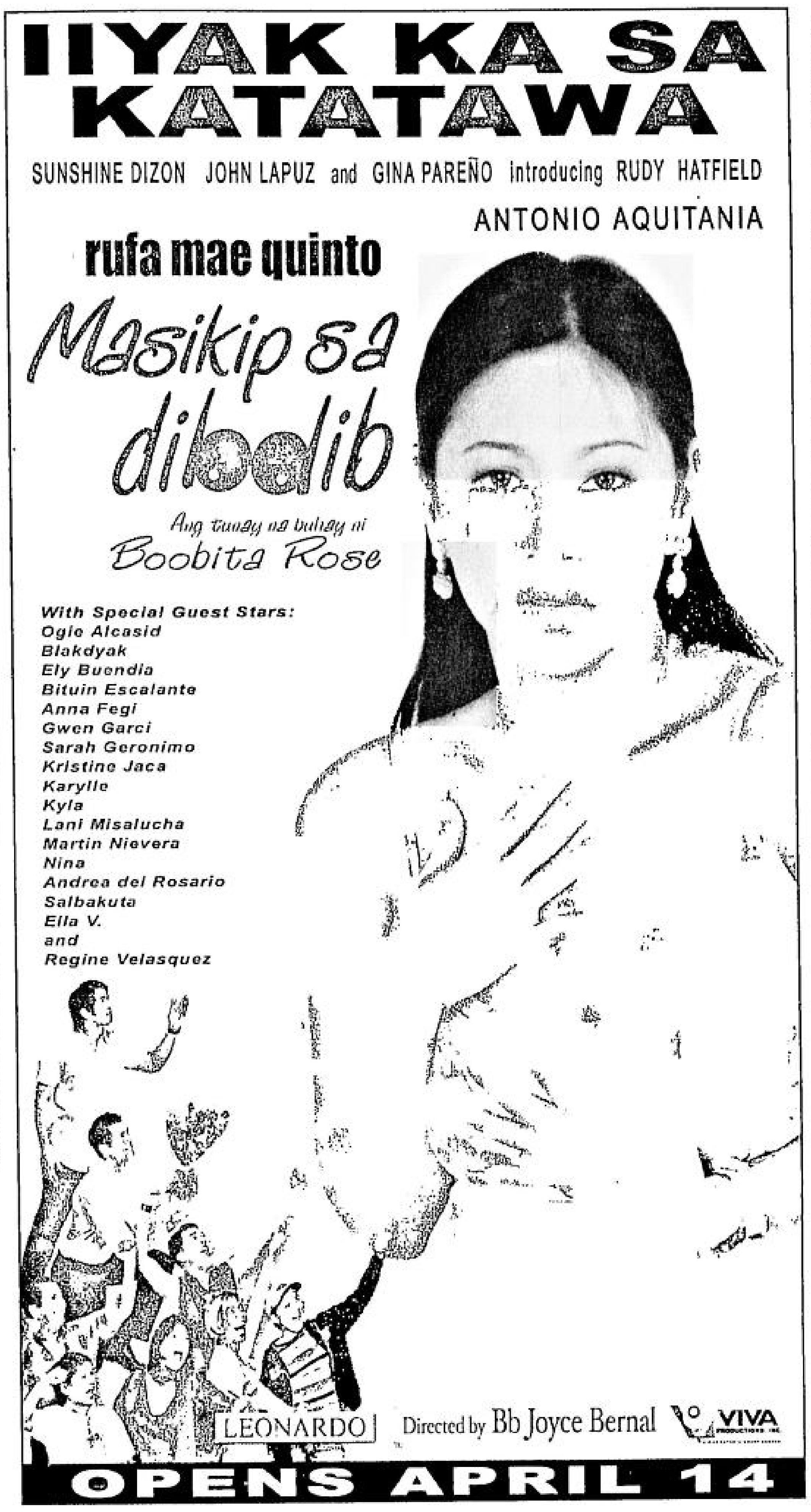
From March 22 to April 22, 2004 only
Mondays to Thursdays only

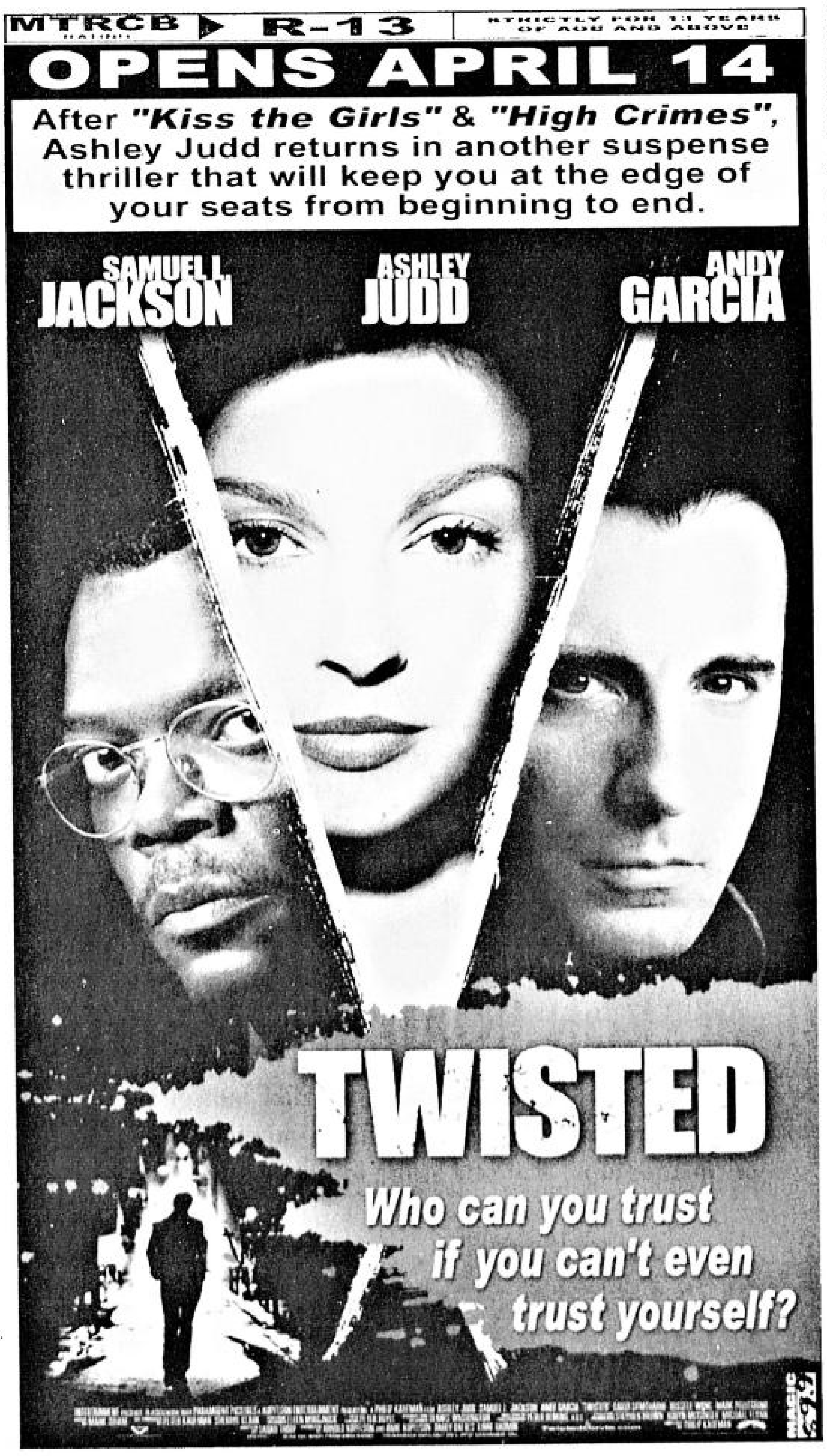
CINEMAS
See it At its BeSt!


PETER PAN
"The Best Family Film Of The Year"
OPENS APRIL 10 at AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA CINEMAS
Family Day
FREE
Face-painting and Balloon-twisting at the Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3 and Alabang Town Center cinema lobby on April 10 & 11 (3- 6pm)
Just present your Peter Pan movie ticket or a P200 new load / re-load Timezone powercard
LoveMall!

Stargazing at Glorietta 1 Cinemas
Special Guest: THE VIVA HOT MEN
Meet & Greet the cast of
Masikip sa dibdib
Ang tunay na buhay ni Boobita Rose
April 16 (Friday), 2004 7:00 PM
Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
Have your picture taken & signed by the stars! Plus win exciting prizes!
MOVIE OPENS APRIL 14 AT AYALA CINEMAS
VIVA
AYALA CINEMAS
LoveMall!

Stars and their shaky faith


IIYAK KA SA KATATAWA
SUNSHINE DIZON JOHN LAPUZ and GINA PAREÑO introducing RUDY HATFIELD
ANTONIO AQUITANIA
rufa mae quinto
Masikip sa dibdib
Ang tunay na buhay ni Boobita Rose
With Special Guest Stars:
Ogie Alcasid
Blakdyak
Ely Buendia
Bituin Escalante
Anna Fegi
Gwen Garci
Sarah Geronimo
Kristine Jaca
Karylle
Kyla
Lani Misalucha
Martin Nievera
Nina
Andrea del Rosario
Salbakuta
Ella V.
and
Regine Velasquez
LEONARDO
Directed by Bb Joyce Bernal
VIVA
OPENS APRIL 14


MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
OPENS APRIL 14
After "Kiss the Girls" & "High Crimes", Ashley Judd returns in another suspense thriller that will keep you at the edge of your seats from beginning to end.
SAMUEL L. JACKSON
ASHLEY JUDD
ANDY GARCIA
TWISTED
Who can you trust if you can't even trust yourself?

From page A24

says. "I owe it to my parents' faith in God, and I know Rico helped me through it as well."

Strength, hope

Young actress **China Cojuangco** considers every second in her life a trial. "But everything I do is done with Him and for Him," she says. "I am still standing because of Him and the support of my family."

Acts 17:28 has been a major source of strength and hope for China. The verse goes, "For in Him we live and move, have our being. As certain of your own poets have said, we are also His offspring."

Times of doubt

Actress **Princess Punzalan** admits there were times she had questioned God's love for her.

"I would ask Him if He really cared about me," she says. "*Siguro, mahal nga Niya ako, pero mas mahal Niya yung iba* (Maybe He loved me but it felt like He loved others more)."

During these times of doubt, Princess would remember John 3:16. "But I would still have a hard time understanding the depth of His love for us," she confesses.

Watching the **Mel Gibson** movie, "The Passion of the Christ," gave Princess a new take on God's love. "It (the movie) really pierced my heart and made me realize that He indeed loves us all equally and unconditionally," she says.

"I adhere to the passage in Philippians 1:6—"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Princess continues: "I fall every now and then, and I get discouraged to go on because of self-condemnation. But I remind myself that I am still a work in progress, and God will complete the work He started in me."

Unwavering faith

As for me, the trial that I still have to survive is my mom's demise. But I comfort myself with the thought that she just went ahead to reserve the best room up there for me and the rest of the family.

The greatest inheritance I received from her is nothing material. It is her unwavering faith in God through all her ups and downs.

Matthew 10:29-31 has sustained me during my darkest hours: "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from our Father? But the very hairs of your head are numbered. So do not fear: You are more valuable than many sparrows."

May you all have a meaningful and serene Holy Week. Remember that God wants spiritual fruit and not religious nuts.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Stars and their shaky faith

From page A24

says. "I owe it to my parents' faith in God, and I know Rico helped me through it as well."

Strength, hope

Young actress China Cojuangco considers every second in her life a trial. "But everything I do is done with Him and for Him," she says. "I am still standing because of Him and the support of my family."

Acts 17:28 has been a major source of strength and hope for China. The verse goes, "For in Him we live and move, have our being. As certain of your own poets have said, we are also His offspring."

Times of doubt

Actress Princess Punzalan admits there were times she had questioned God's love for her.

"I would ask Him if He really cared about me," she says. "*Siguro, mahal nga Niya ako, pero mas mahal Niya yung iba* (Maybe He loved me but it felt like He loved others more)."

During these times of doubt, Princess would remember John 3:16. "But I would still have a hard time understanding the depth of His love for us," she confesses.

Watching the Mel Gibson movie, "The Passion of the Christ," gave Princess a new take on God's love. "It (the movie) really pierced my heart and made me realize that He indeed loves us all equally and unconditionally," she says.

"I adhere to the passage in Philippians 1:6—"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Princess continues: "I fall every now and then, and I get discouraged to go on because of self-condemnation. But I remind myself that I am still a work in progress, and God will complete the work He started in me."

Unwavering faith

As for me, the trial that I still have to survive is my mom's demise. But I comfort myself with the thought that she just went ahead to reserve the best room up there for me and the rest of the family.

The greatest inheritance I received from her is nothing material. It is her unwavering faith in God through all her ups and downs.

Matthew 10:29-31 has sustained me during my darkest hours: "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from our Father." But the very hairs of your head are numbered. So do not fear. You are more valuable than many sparrows."

May you all have a meaningful and serene Holy Week. Remember that God wants spiritual fruit and not religious nuts.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com.

MTRCB ▶ R-18

SASAPIAN KA NG MULTO SA *ABRIL 10.*
Wala pang mas nakakasindak dito!

the ghost is invited to dinner at your house
the Uninvited
Jeon Ji-Hyun
(the star of My Sassy Girl)
Park Shin-Yang

IIYAK KA SA KATATAWA
SUNSHINE DIZON JOHN LAPUZ and GINA PAREÑO introducing RUDY HATFIELD
ANTONIO AQUITANIA
rufa mae quinto
Masikip sa dibdib

With Special Guest Stars:
Ogie Alcasid
Blakdyak
Ely Buendia
Bituin Escalante
Anna Fegi
Gwen Garci
Sarah Geronimo
Kristine Jaca
Karylle
Kyla
Lani Misalucha
Martin Nievera
Nina
Andrea del Rosario
Salbakuta
Ella V.
and
Regine Velasquez

LEONARDO
Directed by Bb Joyce Bernal
VIVA

OPENS APRIL 14

PoPCorn TrEat
at Robinsons Movieworld
Sta. Rosa • MalaBon

Get a FREE plain popcorn
for a single minimum purchase of
TWO (2) tickets.

From March 22 to April 22, 2004 only
Mondays to Thursdays only

CINEMAS

PETER PAN
The Best Family Film Of The Year

OPENS APRIL 10 at AYALA CINEMAS

Family Day

FREE
Face-painting and Balloon-twisting at the Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3 and Alabang Town Center cinema lobby on April &

Just present your Peter Pan movie
or a P200 new load re-load

Stargazing at Glorietta 1 Cinema

Special Guest:
THE VIVA
HOT MEN

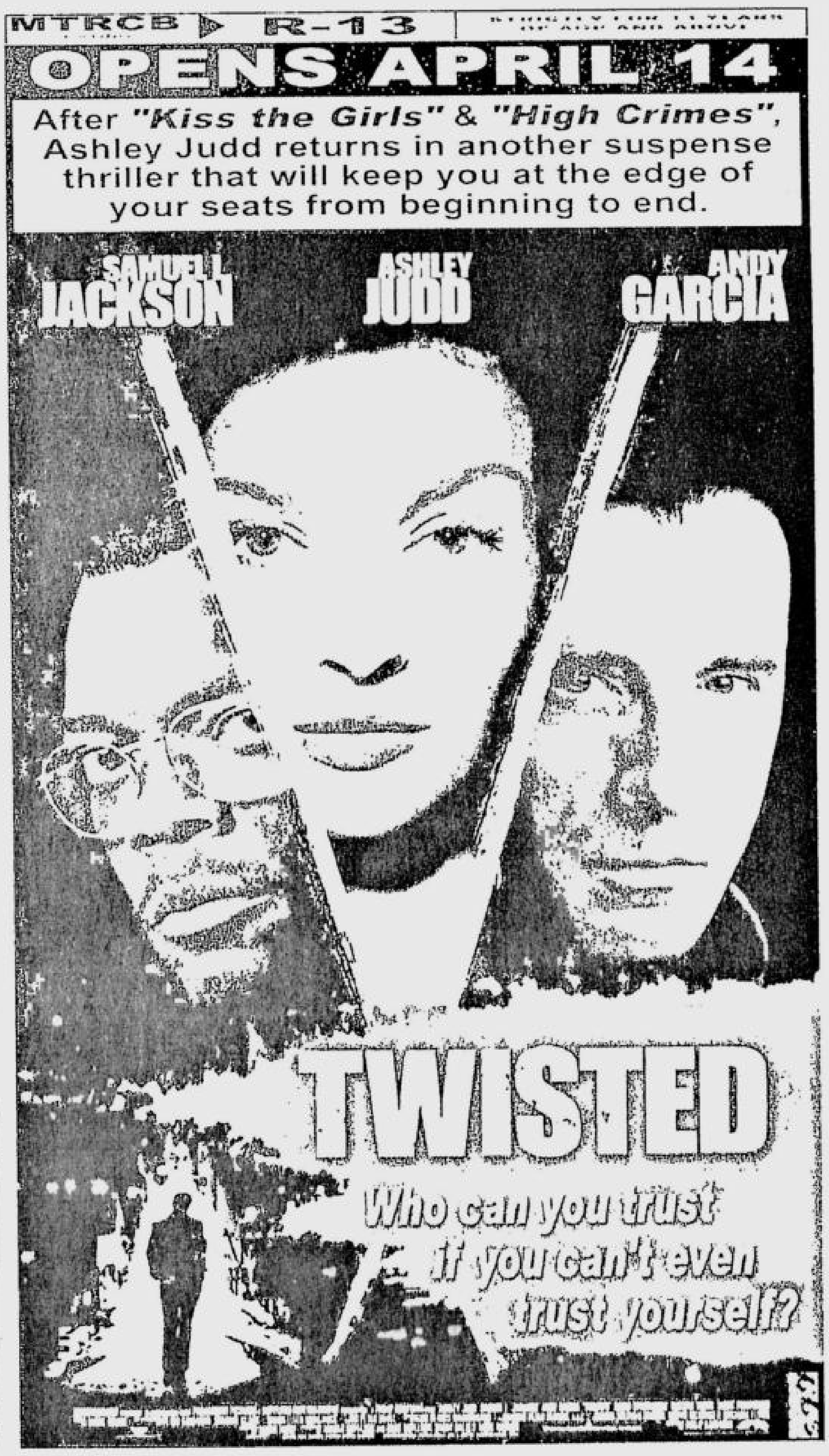
Meet & Greet
the cast of
Masikip sa dibdib

April 16 (Friday), 2004
7:00 PM
Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby

Have your picture taken &
signed by the stars!
Plus win exciting prizes!

MOVIE OPENS APRIL 14
AT AYALA CINEMAS

VIVA
Ayala Cinemas
LoveMall!


MTRCB ▶ R-13

OPENS APRIL 14

After *"Kiss the Girls"* & *"High Crimes"*, Ashley Judd returns in another suspense thriller that will keep you at the edge of your seats from beginning to end.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Stars and their shaky faith

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

FORMER beauty queen and movie actress **Melanie Marquez** almost died when her son, **Manuelito**, by Pampanga Gov. **Lito Lapid**, was declared dead when he was a year and three months old.

"He was already black and blue," recalls Melanie. "But I never stopped praying. I begged the Lord to give me my son's life. I promised him that I would leave the man I loved (Manuelito's father)."

She says "it was at about that time that I found out that Lito was married. So my world was really a mess and I had so much hatred in my heart. The Lord brought my son back to life after two hours. That's why he's called 'The Miracle Boy.'"

Melanie says that experience changed her life completely. "I have become a better person after that," she says. "I live by the biblical verse 'love one another.' If there's love, everything else comes easy."

Guiding Bobby

For **Bobby Yan**, the death of his brother, **Rico**, was not enough reason for him to lose his faith in God.

"It comes from years of guidance from my mom and dad about faithfulness," says Bobby.

He says he even praised God even if he had sunk to what he described as the lowest point in his life.

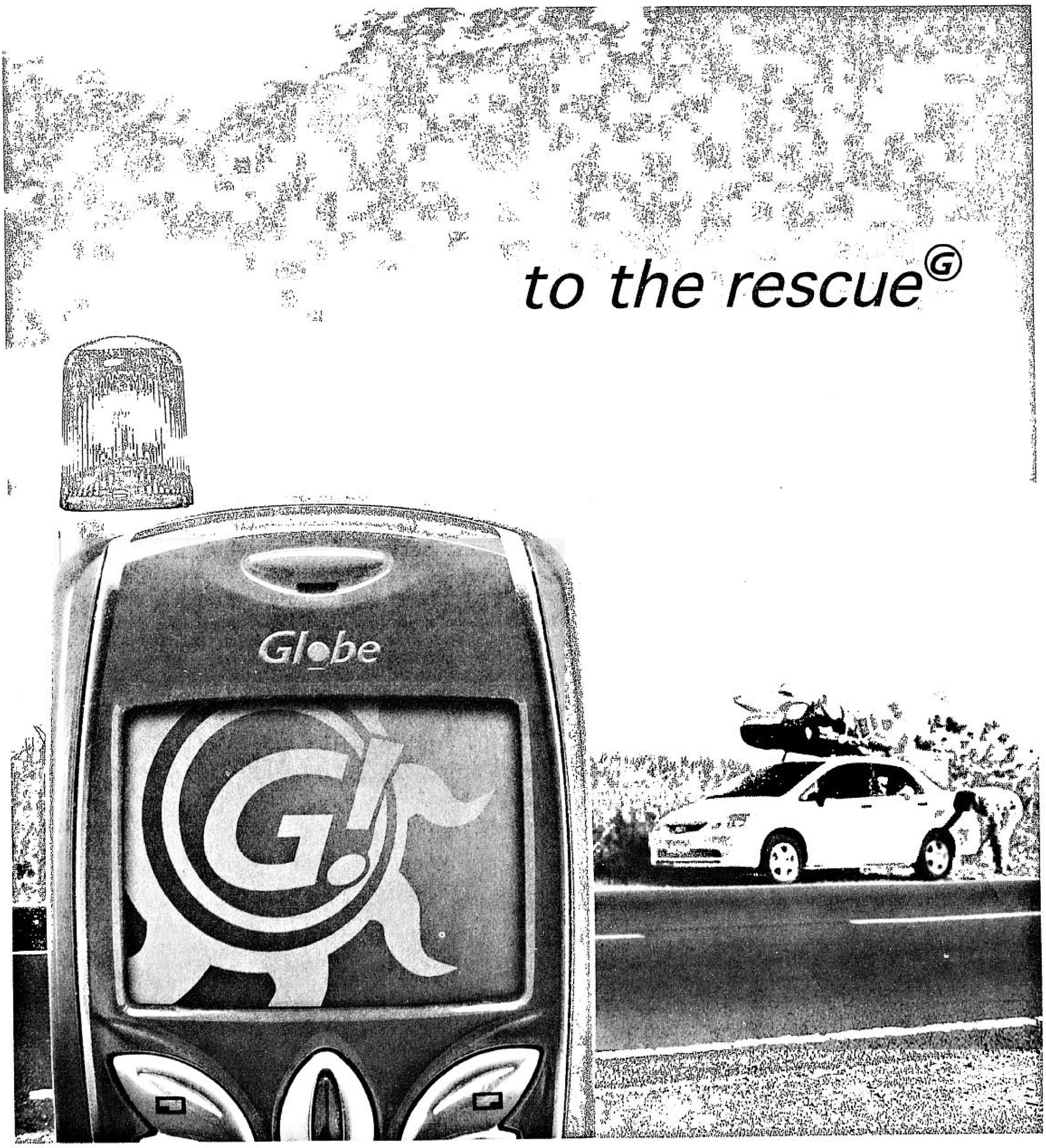
"I thank God for the strength," he

STARS/ A23

CHINA. Every second is a trial.

PRINCESS questioned God's love for her.

MELANIE begged the Lord for her son's life.



GLOBE-PETRON ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE: ON-CALL THIS HOLY WEEK

Call any of our participating road partners for FREE motorist assistance. For Globe AutoloadMAX reloads, FREE 3-minute calls or car checkups, visit any of the following outlets:

Petron Express Center 1 (Northbound)-NLEX, Marilao, Bulacan*	0927-3327000 to 01
Petron Express Center 2 (Southbound)-NLEX, Bocaue, Bulacan	0927-3327002 to 03
Petron Express Center 3 (Southbound)-SLEX, Km.29, San Pedro, Laguna	0927-3327004 to 05
Sta. Rita Base Camp (Sta. Rita exit)	0927-3327006
San Fernando Base Camp (San Fernando exit)	0927-3327007
Silangan Base Camp (Silangan exit)	0927-3327008
Star Tollways (Bulihan exit)	0927-3327009

PETRON

GLOBE AUTOLOAD MAX

making great things possible this summer Globe HANDYPHONE

PETRON
TS³
Ultron
The Ultimate Release from Engine Stress. From Petron.
AVAILABLE IN TOURING, EXTRA, RALLYE, RACE

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1
BUSINESS
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

The Ultimate Campaign Machine
RISO
Print anytime, anywhere at the lowest cost!
COPYLANDIA
Call 7476-888

Vehicle sales down 18% in March

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE AUTOMOTIVE industry reported an 18-percent drop in vehicle sales in March despite vendors' attempts to lure more buyers through various sales promotion gimmicks.

According to a joint report of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association, the total vehicle sales last month stood at only 7,423 units, lower than the 9,013 recorded in the same period last year.

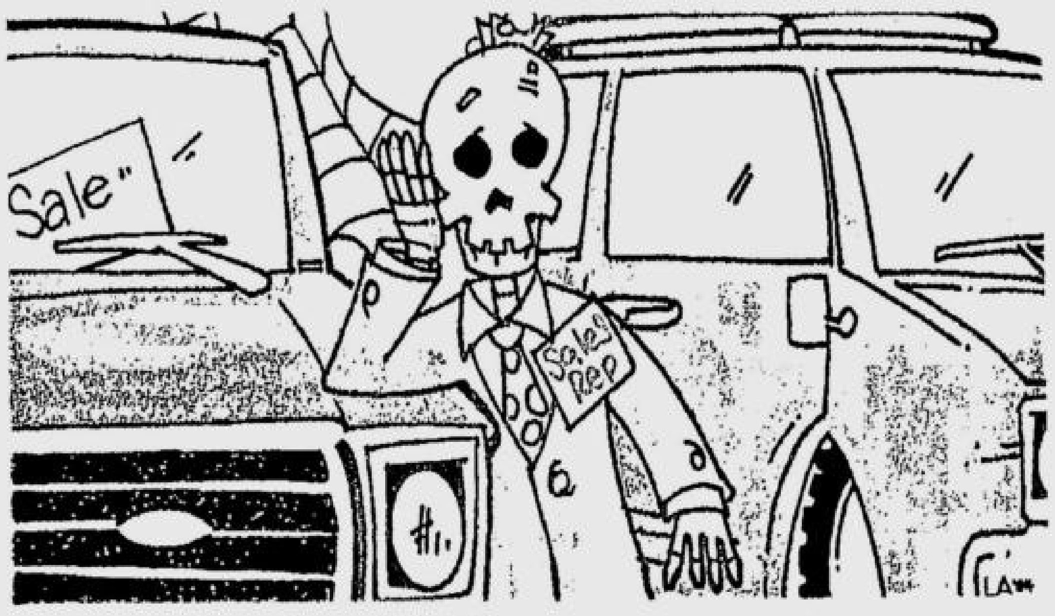
This was despite a 65-percent surge in the sales of passenger cars to 2,778 units last month from 1,652 in March 2003.

Campi and TMA members attributed the growth in car sales to the "rush-buying" before the long Lenten holidays and the anticipation of price increases in some segments.

The assemblers said the general decline in sales was partly due to the limited stocks of some models.

Sales of commercial vehicles—light trucks, trucks and buses, Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) and light commercial vehicles (LCVs)—declined by 37 percent to 4,646 units last month from 7,361 units in March 2003 .

Sales of light trucks also went down 24 percent; trucks and buses, 18 percent; AUVs, by 27 percent and LCVs, 45 percent.



In their February report, Campi and TMA said that sales of AUVs and LCVs continued to suffer a decline due to the imposition of the new excise tax law.

Also, Campi and TMA said year-to-date sales of passenger cars went up by 56 percent to 8,148 units sold in the first quarter from 5,224 units sold in the first three months of 2003.

In the first quarter, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. grabbed the largest portion of the passenger car market, with a 47.5-percent share. Toyota sold 3,874 units from January to March, or 67.7 percent higher than the 2,310 units it sold during the same period last year.

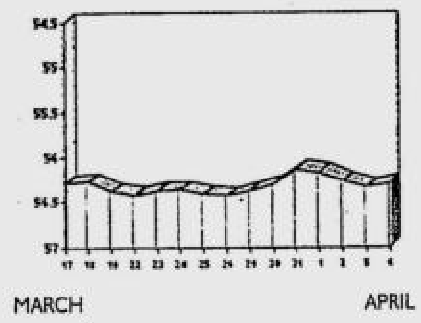
Coming in second was Honda Cars Philippines Inc., which sold 2,212 units in the first quarter. The figure was 103.7 percent higher than the 1,085 units it sold in the same period 2003. Honda took 27 percent of the market.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. ranked third last month, accounting for 7.7 percent share of the market. Sales of Mitsubishi cars reached 627 units last month, which was 6.6 percent higher than the 588 units it sold during the same period last year.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.295 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., April 6, 2004

¥ 106.00= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., April 6, 2004

GOLD: $424.50-425.00

per ounce Hong Kong, April 2, 2004

April 6, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.832154	1.000000	56.3060
Japan	Yen	0.007930	0.009530	0.5366
United Kingdom	Pound	1.515603	1.821300	102.5501
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106844	0.128394	7.2294
Switzerland	Franc	0.638058	0.766754	43.1729
Canada	Dollar	0.633588	0.761383	42.8704
Singapore	Dollar	0.495477	0.595415	33.5254
Australia	Dollar	0.626528	0.752899	42.3927
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.207424	2.652661	149.3607
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221908	0.266667	15.0150
Brunei	Dollar	0.494007	0.593648	33.4259
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000097	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021294	0.025589	1.4408
UAE	Dirham	0.226596	0.272301	15.3322
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.201700	67.6629
Argentina	Peso	0.292240	0.351185	19.7738
Brazil	REAL	0.289043	0.347343	19.5575
Denmark	Kroner	0.134318	0.161410	9.0884
India	Rupee	0.019100	0.022952	1.2923
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219017	0.263193	14.8193
Mexico	New Peso	0.074686	0.089750	5.0535
New Zealand	Dollar	0.540395	0.649393	36.5647
Norway	Kroner	0.119617	0.143744	8.0936
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014574	0.017513	0.9861
South Africa	Rand	0.130415	0.156720	8.8243
Korea	Won	0.000729	0.000876	0.0493
Sweden	Kroner	0.108808	0.130755	7.3623
Syria	Pound	0.016111	0.019361	1.0901
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025378	0.030497	1.7172
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000434	0.000522	0.0294

INTEREST RATES

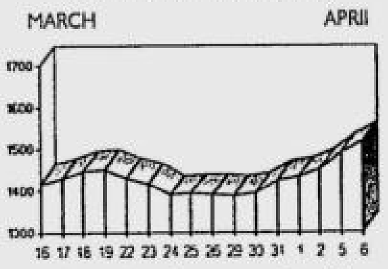
April 06, 2004-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 6-Apr-04	MART1 5-Apr-04
1 Month	7.5464	7.5196
3 Months	8.2732	8.2482
6 Months	9.2232	9.2232
1 Year	9.9464	9.95
2 Years	10.6643	10.6857
3 Years	11.3875	11.4036
4 Years	11.6754	11.6557
5 Years	12.0886	12.0886
7 Years	12.4214	12.4304
10 Years	12.6143	12.6179
20 Years	13.0196	13.0268
25 Years	13.2804	13.3018

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

STOCK MARKET

Shares up 1.8% on earnings prospects

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE FINANCIAL markets are closed from Wednesday for the Easter holidays. Trading resumes on Monday next week.

On Tuesday, this week's last trading day, share prices closed 1.80 percent higher, pushing the key index to its strongest finish in 10 weeks as investors bought into telecom and energy companies with bullish earnings prospects, dealers said.

Leading all gainers was Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which added P40 to P1,055, its highest level in more than four years.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 26.76 points to 1,516.81. It moved in a range of 1,493.21-1,516.87.

Volume turnover fell to 128.37 million shares but value rose to P730.6 million from Monday's 224.5 million shares worth P628.05 million.

In the broader market, gainers led losers 46 to nine, with 38 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index was up 23.32 points at 988.56. The commercial-industrial index rose 48.19 to 2,375.24. Property was up 6.34 at 537.19, while mining advanced 15.00 to 1,480.91. Oil was unchanged at 1.13. Banking and financial services gained 2.94 to 437.53.

Dealers said the composite index sustained its gains for the sixth straight trading day, with the improving economic prospects of the country's major trading partners—the United States and Japan—helping to boost buying interest.

"The momentum carried the market above the 1,500 resistance level, with investors positioning themselves in telecom and energy stocks ahead of the release of first quarter results," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

The results are expected to be announced starting later this month.

"We have a shortened trading week and that's probably the reason why we saw a lot of orders today. We're looking at 1,525 to 1,530 as the next resistance range," added Elena Ponceca of Unicapital Securities.

Analysts said the 7.5 percent year-on-year rise in Philippine merchandise exports receipts in February compared with January's 4.1 percent year-on-year rise, helped ease concerns about rising inflation.

Inflation rose to 4.2 percent from a year earlier in March, exceeding expectations and prompting monetary authorities to take a cautious stance, officials and analysts said Tuesday.

Although there was still some profit-taking despite the market's successive gains, Ponceca said the market may see a technical correction and investors locking in profits when trading resumes on Monday.

But this will depend on how peaceful the long weekend is, as well as on the performances of Wall Street and regional markets during the rest of the week, the dealer said.

Analysts saw continued foreign buying in PLDT after its American depositary receipts (ADRs) rose 52 US cents to $18.31 in New York on Monday.

PLDT said it expects to announce its results for the first quarter to March in the first week of May.

The company said the numbers have not been finalized yet and so it cannot comment on reports its first-quarter earnings likely doubled to more than P4.5 billion from last year. ***AFP***

Call center industry seen growing by 75-100%/yr

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL call center industry is expected to maintain a growth rate of between 75 percent and 100 percent a year, outpacing India's growth rate of 50 percent, according to a United States-based industry expert.

Jon Kaplan, chair of the International Committee for the American TeleServices Association, said the country was still a choice destination for companies outsourcing their non-core functions because of the Filipino call center agents' attitude toward work.

Kaplan also sits as president of the Ohio-based TeleDevelopment Services—a call center consulting, training and management recruiting company.

"While it is cheaper to outsource call center jobs from India—which has 95,000 seats—the Philippines is a choice destination for companies outsourcing such services because Filipinos are (more enthusiastic in satisfying customers)," he said.

"This is not just a matter of lower costs," Kaplan added. "Filipinos put more (time and effort) into the job while call center agents in other countries, especially the US, treat it as no more than a job."

However, while many big American companies are benefiting from sourcing call center jobs from outside the US, this may be damped by the proposed Call Center Consumer's Right to Know Act.

The bill orders US firms, which use call centers to call or receive calls from persons in the United States, to require call center employees to disclose their locations at the beginning of each call.

"Consumers are sometimes asked personal information (like credit card or social security numbers) when calling to or being called from a call center," Kaplan explained.

He said people were wary of giving personal data for privacy and security reasons, especially if they were talking to someone from outside the US. Customers' perception of companies with overseas call centers could also go down, because they are offering "non-American" service.

Filed with the US Senate last November, the bill is sponsored by Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry.

He said further: "It is important for Philippine call centers to be familiar with and comply with all US laws—state and federal—affecting their clients; to continue the emphasis on quality services and observance of high standards; and to develop programs to effectively guide their employees on career paths to sustain the growth of each company."

Maynilad eyes $170M in loans

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COMPROMISE agreement being worked out between the government, through the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), and Maynilad Water Services Inc. is expected to pave the way for the infusion into the water company of some $170 million in term loans from foreign banks.

Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee, who served as adviser to MWSS' legal panel, said the agreement had convinced "banks to provide some $170 million in terms loans payable in seven to eight years." The amount, he said, could be earmarked for capital expenditures.

"Maynilad has been trying to secure $350 million in loans for capex in the last five years but was not able to do so," Teehankee said.

Teehankee said that in the amendment No. 2 of the agreement, the west concession area would be assured of service improvement and expansion costing P9.9 billion from 2004 to 2007.

The foreign lenders that will likely provide the loans include Credit Agricole, Indosuez Merchant Bank Asia Ltd., Citibank NA, Barclays Bank PLC and BNP Paribas.

Teehankee said the agreement would allow MWSS to receive priority payments of annual concession fees of P2 billion a year which would ensure that its cash flow would be sufficient to service its loans. This, he said, convinced the banks to lend to the company.

DTI offers road map, lending hand to SMEs

TRADE Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the government has prepared a road map that would help develop the country's small and medium enterprises by providing funds for startups and venture capital.

At the same time, Purisima urged financial institutions to create a credit bureau that would serve as a clearing house for loan information to SMEs. The information would be gathered from lenders serving the SMEs' funding needs.

The trade chief said the road map reflected the market and technical needs of the various subsectors of SMEs. He said it also defines the efforts and improvements of existing programs catering to SMEs.

Purisima said that one of the components of the framework is to set up and strengthen industry centers for processed food, furniture, inter-regional alliance, packaging development, agro-fisheries and marine industry development.

"We would like to continue the momentum that we have in developing the SME sector, address foreign competition and harness the partnership of the government and the private sector towards this," Purisima said.

One program that has been a boost to SMEs is the Sulong project. Under the comprehensive lending program, P26.7 billion had been released to some 280,000 beneficiaries.

The official said that the Department of Trade and Industry hoped to adopt the best-practice modeling, where SMEs would set a benchmark for themselves based on those who are performing well.

Purisima noted that there was a slowdown in direct lending to SMEs from P233 million in December 2002 to P227 million in June 2003. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Integration of Asean capital markets urged

SINGAPORE—Southeast Asian nations need to accelerate the integration of their capital markets to attract investment that is increasingly heading to China and India, Singapore said yesterday.

The economically disparate grouping should allow "pathfinders" to push ahead on developing financial market initiatives without having to wait for all Asean members to be ready, Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, said at the opening of the Asean Finance Ministers meeting.

Less than a decade ago, Asean nations were a favored destination for foreign investors, but the Asian crisis of 1997-98 and the emergence of China and India meant the region now had to work hard to stay on the investment radar screen.

Finance ministers of the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations were now planning joint roadshows to Europe and the United States to promote investment opportunities in the region, Lee said.

Asean was pursuing free trade agreements (FTAs) with China and India and better economic relations with Japan and the United States, Lee said.

"Asean must once again band together to maximize our strengths," he said, pointing to the grouping's combined population of 560 million and GDP of $330 billion, which he said was comparable to China's coastal region.

"While regional capital markets have generally experienced strong growth since the financial crisis, our potential is limited because by international standards the regional equity and bond markets are small and fragmented," he said.

Lee said Asean countries could develop greater links between stock markets, or harmonise standards and conventions to make it easier for investors to operate in southeast Asia.

"In such initiatives, we do not have to wait for all Asean members to be ready. Once two or more Asean members are ready to make the move, they can work together as pathfinders for the whole region," he said. Lee also said Asean should meet its June 30 deadline to agree with China on schedules for phasing out tariffs by 2010 for the six original ASEAN members and 2015 for the four, poorer Indochina members.

"We are negotiating an FTA with China, and targeting to conclude the goods chapter by the middle of this year," he said.

Asean groups include Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar. ***Reuters***

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Napocor sales down by 1% in '03

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. recorded an almost 1 percent drop in power sales to 33,570 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in 2003 from the previous year's 33,880 GWh.

According to data from Napocor's sales and services group, the slight decline in nationwide power sales was attributed to the dip in regular sales in the Luzon grid, which accounted for 71 percent of the state firm's total energy market.

Luzon sales decreased by 3.7 percent to 23,716 GWh from 24,617 GWh in 2002.

Predictably, the Manila Electric Co. accounted for a huge chunk of Luzon sales, cornering 66.4 percent of the pie at 15,036 GWh.

Although Napocor greatly benefited from the power purchases of the Lopez-led utility, the power firm's energy sales to Meralco in 2003 was 2.1 percent lower than the 15,353 GWh posted in 2002.

While Luzon sales dropped, energy sales in Mindanao showed the most dramatic growth, increasing 7.7 percent to 6,048 GWh from 2002's 5,614 GWh.

Large distribution utilities in the region, like Davao Light and Power Co. and Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co., accounted for the biggest chunk of power sales there, with a combined share of 54.8 percent of the pie.

In the Visayas, energy sales grew 4.3 percent to 3,805 GWh last year from 3,649 the year before. Of total regular sales, around 20.9 percent went to the Visayas Electric Co. (Veco).

This made Veco, which services Metro Cebu and its adjacent areas, Napocor's single biggest customer in the region.

As for the power sales breakdown using customer class, large utilities accounted for the biggest share of total purchased electricity in 2003 at 19,137 GWh.

These large utilities were followed by other utilities at 9,884 GWh, non-utilities at 2,268 GWh, small utilities at 539 GWh, Leyte industries at 344 GWh, steel industries at 231 GWh, and government at 51 GWh.

Highest sales were posted in April at 2,977 GWh, while the lowest sales were registered in March at 2,532 GWh.

Gov't eyes task force to plug tax leaks

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is creating a technical working group whose main task is to monitor and help raise the level of tax compliance of the local insurance industry.

Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan said that the group will be composed of representatives from the Department of Finance, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Insurance Commission.

"It's about time we create something like this for the insurance industry," Tan told reporters. "Part of the group's objectives are to share information among members and improve compliance of industry players to the country's tax laws."

The move to create a team that will monitor the tax compliance of members of the insurance industry came in the wake of reports of widespread tax delinquency.

The BIR earlier warned some non-life insurance companies, especially those servicing owners of private and public utility vehicles, for failing to remit documentary stamp tax (DST).

Citing data from the Land Transportation Office, the BIR reported that 4.5 million vehicles were registered in 2003. However, the government's DST collection from vehicle insurance only accounted for about 850,000 registrants, or less than 20 percent of what should have been collected.

"There is really a huge discrepancy between the actual collection and what should have been collected," BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares earlier said. "We will try to coordinate with other agencies to finally solve the high level of tax delinquency."

The BIR, aside from teaming up with the Insurance Commission and the DOF to improve monitoring of the insurance industry, has also tied up with other government agencies to better detect tax delinquency in other industries.

Recently, the BIR inked an agreement with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board and the Land Transportation Office to prevent tax leaks in the transport sector.

SM's Sy confident of securing board seat in Equitable PCI

Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROUP of mall magnate Henry Sy is confident that it has generated enough proxies to win a board seat in Equitable PCI Bank during the bank's next stockholders' meeting on April 20.

In line with its bid for board representation, the SM group has likewise submitted four names to the bank's nomination committee, said Eduardo Francisco, senior vice president of BDO Capital and Investment Corp.

The four nominees are: Exequiel Villacorta, former president of TA Bank; bankers Violeta Lim and Josefina Tan; and, Rafael Alunan III, Interior secretary during the Aquino administration.

"We are confident that these nominees are qualified and will make significant contribution in terms of corporate governance," Francisco told the INQUIRER.

The group wants to get at least one of these nominees elected to the Equitable PCI Bank board.

"The group wants to enhance shareholder value," he said. "We are not against any existing management group."

Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank earlier signed a deal to buy the 29 percent stake held by the state-owned Social Security System. The deal with the SSS, if it pushes through, will entitle the SM group to four more seats in the 15-member Equitable PCI board.

BDO Capital structured the deal, which can make the SM group the single biggest stockholder in Equitable PCI Bank. However, the agreement is still subject to clearance from the Department of Justice.

"This is not a hostile takeover," Francisco said. "It's a strategic acquisition."

Francisco said the group, which has a minority stake in Equitable PCI even without the SSS stake, had accumulated enough proxies to vote one director in the board. The deadline for validation of proxies is set on April 13.

Other banking sources said the bank's founding Go family, which has a 24-percent stake, was likewise accumulating proxies for the next stockholders meeting.

Equitable PCI Bank has about 25 percent in public float while the Government Service Insurance System owns about 12 percent. Another significant stockholder is the Romualdez family.

In 1999, the SSS and the GSIS provided the financial muscle which the Go family's Equitable Bank, then the 10th biggest bank, needed to acquire the controlling 72 percent stake jointly put on the block by then feuding PCI Bank shareholders Lopez and Gokongwei groups.

After four years, the SSS is unloading its stake to diversify its portfolio, giving BDO the chance to replicate Equitable Bank's feat of acquiring and controlling stake in a much bigger bank.

Analysts said BDO's bid to install a representative in the Equitable PCI board was significant because it could block any attempt to come up with a "poison pill" that could block the entry of new investors.

In the past, there was a plan within Equitable PCI to pass a resolution that would make a takeover by a new investor too expensive. The plan did not push through.

When asked whether his family was willing to relinquish control on the heels of the BDO takeover bid, Equitable PCI chair Antonio Go told reporters that "it doesn't matter who's in control."

"We have to do the right thing," Go said.

He explained that the right thing was "to make money for the shareholders."

The SSS, which now seeks to be paid in outright cash for its 29 percent stake in Equitable PCI Bank, aims to generate a higher price of P16 billion from the sellout deal.

SSS and BDO now plan to revert to the latter's original offer to purchase the block for P8.1 billion in outright cash.

The SSS will place the proceeds in a special series Treasury bond which could rake in about P16 billion over a six-and-a-half-year period, higher than the original expected proceeds of P14 billion.

Power projects boost Bataan dev't

BALANGA CITY—The government's 10-year power development project and the P82-billion Luzon Island Transmission Augmentation (Lista) program have made it possible for city officials and businessmen to pursue their bid for economic growth.

Balanga City Mayor Albert Garcia said the Macapagal administration's energy programs "are vital to the city's planned industrial and technology zone, envisioned to draw investors and create more jobs for this booming Central Luzon city."

The zone would be home to light and fairly heavy industrial concerns.

During a meeting with National Transmission Corp. (Transco) president Alan Ortiz, Garcia said that stable and efficient power supply to the city is crucial to the zone's success.

In the meeting, Ortiz briefed local leaders here about the Macapagal administration's program for the continuing build-up of power generation capacities and for the efficient distribution of power through a world-class nationwide power transmission highway.

Garcia told Ortiz that the government's power initiatives had helped spur the entry of new investments and the creation of jobs in the city. He said some 1,500 business establishments have been set up in Balanga over the past three years, generating an estimated 5,000 new jobs.

The technology city project is expected to eclipse this record, Garcia said.

Ortiz assured Garcia and local business leaders that the entire Luzon island has a dependable electricity supply of an estimated 9,350 megawatts (MW).

Ortiz added that since the entire island's peak demand is 6,454 MW, there is a comfortable reserve of over 2,000 MW.

Ortiz added that despite the comfortable reserve, the Macapagal government is building up new capacities to ensure that the power supply would cope with the anticipated overall economic growth.

Ortiz also announced that as soon as the rehabilitation of the Tiwi and Mak-Ban geothermal plants are completed, an additional 215 MW may be generated by December this year.

Piltel seen to make ₱4.3 B in tax savings

By Clarissa S. Batino

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. has about P13.5 billion in net operating loss carryover, or Nolco, benefits incurred in 2001 and 2002 that could translate to tax savings of P4.3 billion this year and the next.

The tax savings would benefit Smart Communications Inc., Piltel's profitable affiliate, if plans of the cellular phone firm to buy Piltel's debts push through this year.

Piltel, the losing subsidiary of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said that the Nolco worth P10.17 billion, booked in 2001, would expire this year, while P3.31 billion, incurred in 2002, would lapse next year.

Piltel said that P2.81 billion and P3.16 billion in Nolco from its 1999 and 2000 operations had already expired.

"Piltel has written off P5.97 billion of Nolco arising from losses in 1999 and 2000 against the valuation allowance due to the expiration of these benefits," said the company in a recent disclosure to the stock exchange.

In the Philippines, only profitable companies could adopt the Nolco to deduct previous losses from current profits. The benefits of the accumulated losses expire three years after the losses were booked. Nolco is subtracted from taxable earnings, thus, shrinking profits and cutting tax obligations.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan said at the sidelines of a banking conference on March 25 that Smart could benefit the most from the tax breaks of Piltel after posting more than P16 billion in net earnings last year.

He stressed, however, that Piltel was expected to register about P400 million in net profits this year.

Smart told Piltel creditors last month that it planned to acquire PLDT's 45 percent stake in Piltel in exchange for absorbing about P20.5 billion of the latter's debt.

Piltel said that it had incurred cumulative net losses of P47.04 billion since 2001.

"These losses have resulted in deferred tax assets, comprised primarily of a combination of the Nolco and the asset write-off charges for which a valuation allowance has been provided as based on Piltel's current performance," a Piltel official said.

But of the P47 billion, only the Nolco portion could be utilized as tax shield, according to Pangilinan.

The rest are losses from provisions due to bad assets and would only benefit the PLDT group as Piltel disposes of assets related to failed ventures, like the cell-sites of the analog and CDMA wireless technology, as well as the fixed-lines in Mindanao.

Pangilinan said that apart from the tax benefits from Piltel, Smart has a lot to gain from acquiring PLDT's 45 percent stake in the company.

"Piltel is strategically positioned in the lower end of the cellular market," Pangilinan said. "There are numerous financial benefits to consolidate the accounts of Smart and Piltel as it would enhance the income of Smart."

Smart gave Piltel creditors until April 19 to consider cash settlement at a discount, conversion into Smart's medium term dollar loans at a discount, conversion into a 10-year debt of Smart, or a swap with sovereign dollar bonds held by Smart.

Piltel defaulted on the payments of its P41.1-billion debt in 1999. Shortly after, it declared a debt moratorium.

Of the total amount, one-third or roughly P13 billion was owed to more than 20 banks. Piltel also has a debt of $280 million to Marubeni, which rolled-out 400,000 landlines for Piltel in Mindanao.

Bond holders hold the remaining debt.

On June 4, 2001, Piltel restructured about 98 percent of its liabilities.

Under the 2001 debt restructuring, half of Piltel's debt was cancelled in exchange for PLDT convertible preferred shares.

The balance was stretched to 10-year and 15-year loans secured by Pitel's current and future assets.

After the 2001 restructuring, Piltel was left with $418 million in debt.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 6, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	103,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47.5	47	47	663,200
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,200
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	41	40.5	41	210,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	100,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	23.75	24	23.75	24	284,300
Philippine National Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	15,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	140,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2200	2200	2200	2200	120
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	30,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	135	135	135	135	200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1570	1580	1570	1580	1,520
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	22.25	21.5	22.25	20,500
Diversified Fin. Network	3	3	3	3	5,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.67	320,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	875	905	875	900	116,340
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	138,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.043	0.04	0.043	2,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.037	0.034	0.037	3,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	12,276,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1025	1055	1025	1055	284,780
Ivantage Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	11,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.75	18	18.75	113,300
Manila Electric Co. B	27.5	28.5	27.5	28	1,146,700
Petron Corp.	3.1	3.15	3	3.1	9,799,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.22	2.38	2.22	2.38	70,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	1	0.95	1	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	3.05	2.95	3	138,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	53,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	1,340,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	42,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	19	742,700
RFM Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	160,700
San Miguel Corp. B	71	72	71	71.5	116,700
Universal Robina Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	25,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	630,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	2,282,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	134,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.52	0.53	4,070,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.12	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	550,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	400,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.022	0.028	0.022	0.028	1,300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	290,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.25	23	21.75	23	590,500
Ionics Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	102,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	128,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.18	1.1	1.18	10,251,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	3,830,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	5,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	15	14.5	15	31,800
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	700,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	540,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.16	644,000
Pryce Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	140,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	700,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.26	0.23	0.26	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22.75	22	22.5	298,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6	6	6	6	47,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	7,498,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.215	0.205	0.21	2,240,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.06	3,989,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.185	480,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	110,000
Robinsons Land Corp	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	8,638,000
MINING					
Benguet Corp. B	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	200,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	30,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,562,740	52,128,100.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	72,723,320	579,685,235.00
PRO	23,055,000	98,419,020.00
Mining	451,000	76,400.00
OIL	30,000,000	90,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	127,792,060	730,398,755.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	437.53	UP 2.94
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,375.24	UP 48.19
PRO	537.19	UP 6.34
Mining	1,480.91	UP 15.00
OIL	1.13	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	988.56	UP 23.32
Composite	1,516.81	UP 26.76

NO. OF ADVANCES: 46; NO. OF DECLINES: 9; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 93
NO. OF TRADES: 2,555

DISCLOSURES

VICTORIAS Milling Company Inc. will hold its annual stockholder's meeting on April 30 with record date on April 5.

* * *

BALABAC Resources and Holdings Company Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.225 to P0.33 each.

* * *

MABUHAY Vinyl Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.20 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of April 22 and will be payable not later than April 30.

* * *

PRIMEX Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 21, 3 p.m. at the Marikina Function Room of the Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of April 23 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MARY Catherine Hilario resigned as corporate secretary and corporate information officer of **Semirara Mining Corp.** Jowell Merillo-Racelis was designated assistant corporate information officer.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Holdings Inc. scheduled its annual stockholders' meeting on June 8 with record date on May 5.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 8 with record date on May 10.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 30, 10 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of March 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Company will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 28, 4 p.m. at the Metrobank Auditorium, Metrobank Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of March 12 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILEX Mining Corp. announced that it has resumed operations of its Padcal mine after the tailings leakage was plugged. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Art gives investors opportunity to beat inflation

FEATURE

INVESTMENTS come in different forms: real estate, stocks and bonds, jewelry, technology, business and art. Let's take time to expound on the last.

An investor once bought a beautiful diamond of about 5 karats worth P150,000/karat and also bought a painting from an artist starting to build a reputation in the art circle for about P100,000.

Unfortunately, that investor fell into hard times and was forced to sell his possessions. The diamond sold for P100,000/karat (a 30-percent loss). But the painting sold for P300,000 (a gain of 200 percent)! The investment winner is obvious.

Just look at the dynamic growth of the art auction houses in the world and you can judge for yourself the potential. Closer to our region, there are two establishments that hold biannual auctions focusing on Southeast Asian art. One of these is Christie's.

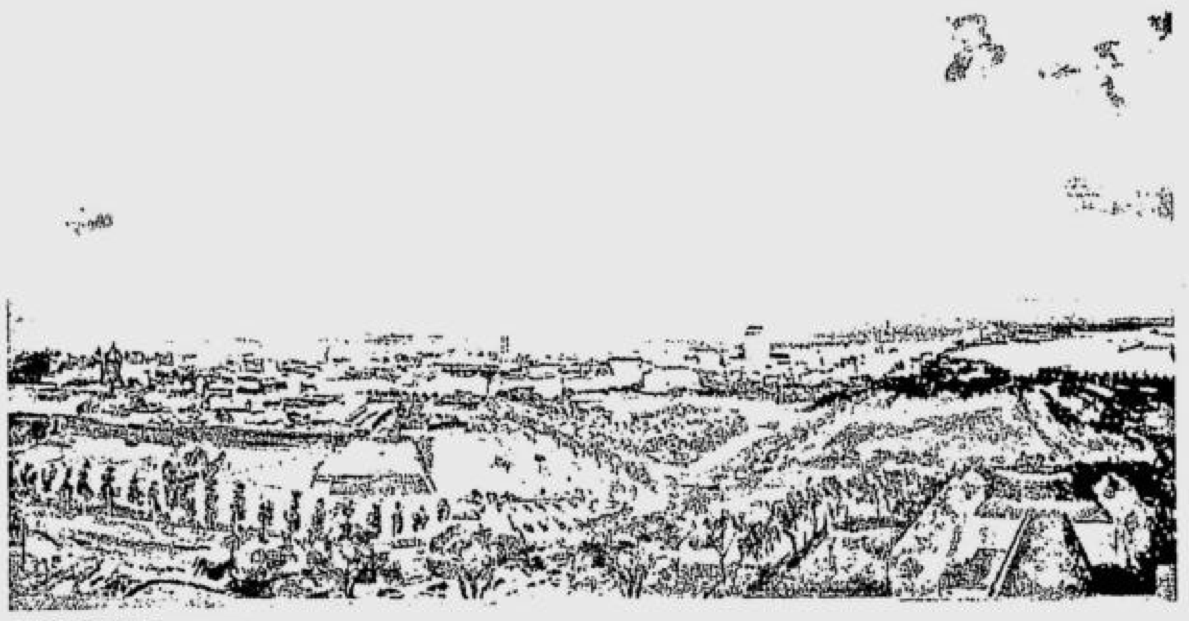
Browse through Christie's catalogues or website and you can see the wide range of investments it offers. The forthcoming auction will take place on April 25, Sunday, at Christie's, in Hong Kong.

Here are some of the preferred choices: Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Vicente Manansala, Arturo Luz, BenCab, Nena Saguil, Federico Alcuaz, Victorio Edades and Onib Olmedo.

For a brief period, Anita was labeled the "Female Amorsolo" as both shared the same dedication for the international woman and genre subjects.

But Anita essentially works in a different epoch and her works are influenced by the modernist movements which was at its most fervent in the 1950s. It was an exciting period in the Philippines when young artists were burning with the desire to revolutionize and turned their back on accepted aesthetics.

Anita bravely re-defined the images of women in her works. Working in a generation immediately after the renowned Fernando C. Amorsolo whose images of the demure beauties of the country have dominated the Filipino sensibilities for more than three decades, Anita's feminine subjects which are generalized, abbreviated and at times angulated, present yet another visual treat to the Filipino audience.



ALCUAZ'S Panorama

Six Senses is supposedly the only major work she made in 1995, a re-visit of a work she painted in the '70s—the Five Senses which reportedly won the artist an award.

With the present work, the five senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch are represented and added with the sixth faculty of the elusive and peculiar intuition—a faculty long perceived as a feminine quality.

One would think this is a most appropriate allusion to the feminine sensitivity for an artist who celebrates the beauty and the strength of women in all her works.

Interestingly, the sixth sense of intuition or rather the artistic muses is represented by a little boy in the work which reflects the motherhood among women—capturing a universal theme of Madonna and Child. The boy who is the only male figure among the women is seen here playing a flute and sitting on the ground, he almost blends in with his garden environment.

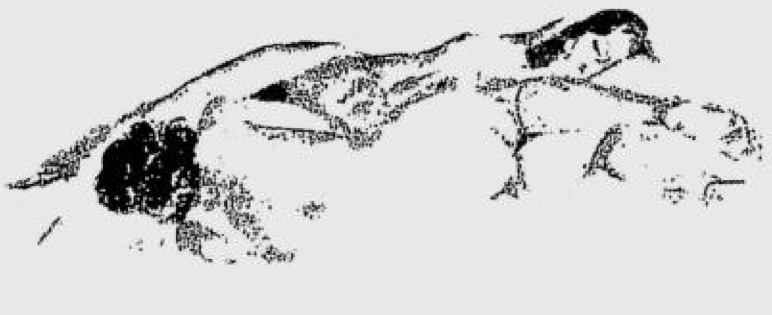
Estimate: $115,400-$179,500

Vicente Manansala (National Artist), considered the Master by the progressives, with three awesome pieces spanning his various commands in all mediums: watercolor, nudes, modernism and cubism.

His watercolors are subtle yet with bold strokes. Part of the so-called 13 Moderns, a true artist in any medium. His strokes in watercolor truly highlight his rare talent.

"Still Life" estimate $15,000-$25,000.

Then there is this very beautiful, early rare abstract but important masterpiece from 1948, in mixed media! Virtually impossible to find such a work, unless you were the first of the Manansala collectors.



MANANSALA

The private collectors often got the choice pieces direct from the master himself when he would immediately inform them of his finished pieces, which the artist personally favored over his other works.

Estimate $15,000-$25,000.

The nude forms are usually attributed to Manansala as he had a distinct advantage of having painted many prominent women of the '70s. Here we have two female figures in sinewy form, fluid lines and movement.

The artist was personally fond of this very unique piece and is documented in his book, "Nudes," by Rod Paras Perez, 1989. Manansala's love for charcoal is a witness to his principle that "black and white does not induce color favoritism." "It is very honest."

Estimate $6,000-$10,000.

Arturo Luz (National Artist) is renowned for his meticulous designs and simply elegant lines with subtle yet strong qualities. Also part of the 13 Moderns, he led the fast development of Philippine art. The collection has choice pieces from the last decade.

At Christie's we have two from the late '90s, a "Celebration Series" and "Cityscape Series," simply beautiful lines that enhance any exclusive home or prestigious office.

Estimate for each $ 20,000-$30,000.

BenCab, also known as Ben Cabrera, is definitely the "Artist of the Decade." In 1998, he was invited by Japan Foundation to take part in a workshop in Bandung called, "Collaborative Event: Urbanization (Six Southeast Asian Contemporary Artists)."

With keen sensitivity and compassion, Ben underscores the social conditions of the underprivileged.

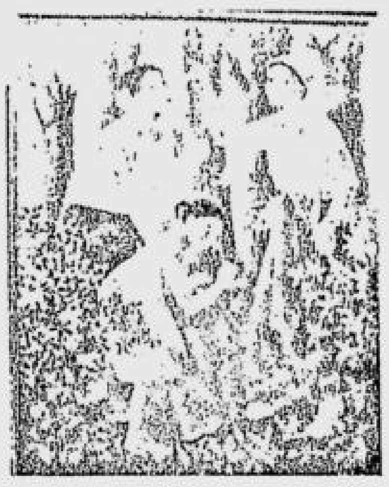
He created three masterpieces. This piece was considered for the auction and considered the best one by far.

Estimate $12,000-$18,000.

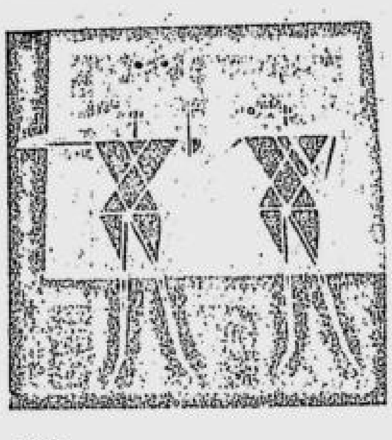
Another Ben piece is a charming, carefree lady in red, dancing, a stark complement to social realism.

Estimate $10,000-$15,000.

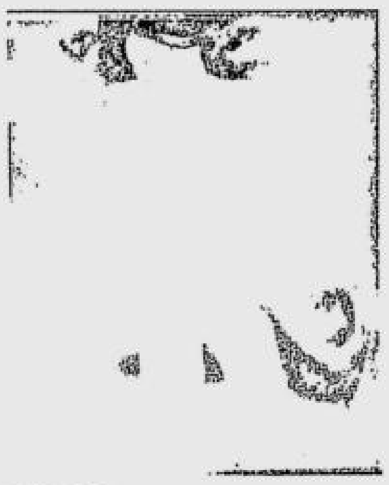
Nena Saguil, one of the early "progressives of the Neo-realist movement," is represented with two periods of her work.



MAGSAYSAY-HO



LUZ



BENCAB

The first, painted in 1954 during the early phase of her installation in Paris from Manila. It symbolizes her solitude as a lone abstract figure in a tower of the famed Fontainebleu castle, outside Paris.

Considered a major piece, the Metropolitan Museum of Manila had an exhibit of self-portraits in the late 1980.

The other Saguil is witness to her growing interests in the cosmic forces during the late '70s to '80s. This oval piece, untitled, which is often referred to in French as, "Illuminations." Gaze upon it and you will feel yourself drawn in. These two represent Nena's range of creativity. A must for any collector.

Estimate $18,000 to $25,000.

Federico Alcuaz has a distinct style and his solid European training often surfaces like a classical lyrical composition. Alcuaz attended the same school as National Artist Juan Luna, who is internationally known for his "Spolarium."

He has won numerous citations, the highest of which is an award from France. He has another from Barcelona. The collection has three major pieces. One is 10 feet long, panoramic view of Manila Bay and environs. This is the only known work of its size and subject in private hands. The other piece is said to be the artist himself looking into a lounge.

Panoramic: Estimate $19,000-$25,000.

Tap Room: Estimate $ 7,000-$12,000.

Victorio C. Edades (National Artist) is often referred to having jumpstarted the Modern Movement in Philippine art.

The piece in the collection is rather naive yet a very distinguished piece, a personal flashback into his youth in the countryside. A veritable treasure.

Estimate $8,000-$12,000.

Onib Olmedo, known for his odd shaped and grotesque figures usually in pastel or charcoal. The piece on offer is a beautiful contradiction of form yet complimentary to his style of classic fluidity.

Estimate $3,000-$5,000.

The vast and prestigious collections of the Guggenheim, Rockefeller, Rothschilds and Ford families all started from the purchase of one piece of art. The value of these collections are now worth more than gold bars! Christie's now offers investors an opportunity to participate in the international world of art investment, as a cushion against inflation.

Pre-sale exhibition: Hong Kong 23-24 April JW Marriott Hotel
Auction: Southeast Asian Pictures, 25 April at 2 p.m., JW Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong

More information about Christie's sale of Southeast Asian and 20th century Indian pictures can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids.

www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar. Images available on request. (Visit Christie's website at www.christies.com.)

Brazil's coffee soars on quality charts

REALEZA, Brazil—Brilliant weather and a new focus on crop care propelled coffee grown in the mountainous Zona da Mata forest region of Brazil to the top of the quality charts this year in the world's biggest producer of the bean.

Although few of the region's expected 7 million 60-kg bags of arabica coffee in 2004 will reach the very top specialty grade, success in quality contests will help sell the crop at a higher price.

Years ago, coffee from the region, which straddles Brazil's main coffee states of Minas Gerais and Espirito Santo, was said to taste like "medicine."

A wet mountain climate and careless harvesting caused coffee beans to ferment which resulted in an unpleasant taste.

But now growers in districts such as Realeza, Araponga and Venda Nova do Imigrante are doing things differently.

"Attitudes began to change with coffee contests. People started to realize that it paid to produce quality coffee," said Ronaldo Werner of Fazenda Ouro Verde.

Werner's Realeza Specialty Coffee Group is a member of the Brazilian Specialty Coffee Association (BSCA) which holds annual Cup of Excellence contests.

Italian roaster Illycaffe led the way, launching an annual "espresso" gourmet contest in the early 1990s.

Werner's Realeza group has four farms growing 650 hectares of coffee in rich soils between 800 and 1,350 meters altitude near the regional coffee center of Manhuacu.

The group was formed to share production know-how and marketing costs to help open up new international markets.

Buyers come to see how and where different coffees are grown, he said, noting that location greatly affects taste.

"It takes a lot of time and effort to meet their needs and they usually start buying in very small volume. But we see it as an investment in future growth," Werner said.

At Araponga, a new coffee district 2-1/2-hours drive south of Realeza, farmers hope to capitalize on wins in recent BSCA Cup of Excellence and Illycaffe contests.

"We had exceptional weather last year," said Jose Bernardes Santana on his Pedra Redonda farm which was planted in the past five years.

Santana, president of the local specialty coffee producers' association formed last year, said that most members were small and inexperienced growers. "We need more information about how to guarantee quality. One bad bean can ruin a bag of coffee."

Across the border in Espirito Santo, Venda Nova do Imigrante has a coffee growing tradition stretching back to Italian immigrants in the late 19th century. It also has mainly small coffee growers.

"We're constantly looking to increase quality and returns," said Benjamin Salgueto, 77, a founder member of the 15-year-old Pronova coffee producers' association. *Reuters*

Japan retailers set for sunny '04

TOKYO—Profits at Japan's troubled retailers should log their first major growth in four years this year, underlining market views that a sector mired by deflation and slumping consumption is putting its worst times behind it.

Earnings at big players like Ito-Yokado Co. and Aeon Co. will be boosted by restructuring and an expected easing of competition, but analysts expect improvements in same-store sales, customer spending and profit margins—backed by sunny economic prospects—also to help buoy profits.

Aeon, No. 2 in Asia, on Wednesday opens the earnings reporting season for major retailers for the year ended Feb. 29.

Japan's top retail group, Ito-Yokado, and convenience store chain 7-Eleven Japan Co. report on Thursday.

The market will be closely watching their 2004/05 earnings outlooks due at the same time, seeking evidence that a recovery in consumption is under way.

"The retailers' share prices are now clearly too high," said Yasuyuki Sasaki, analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston.

"The market is watching data like parent-only sales plans, estimates of gross profit margins. The current level of retailer share prices will hardly be justified if this is disappointing."

Shares in Japanese retailers have surged in the past month after upbeat economic data in late February pointing to a recovery in consumption convinced foreign investors that Japan's deflation, which has bruised retailer earnings in the past four years, could finally be coming to an end.

Tokyo's retailer subindex has jumped 24 percent since hitting a recent low on Feb. 24, compared to a 13-percent gain in the benchmark Nikkei average.

Takashimaya Co. and other department stores that sell top-end products have been the biggest beneficiaries of the healthy economic data. The price to earnings ratio (PER) of six major department stores is hovering around 28, which CSFB's Sasaki said was about 30 percent above the appropriate level.

He said the market at least expected them to come up with flat parent-only sales estimates for the 2004/05 year, after an estimated 2-percent fall in 2003/04.

Investor enthusiasm has also been spreading to the struggling supermarket sector, including Ito-Yokado and Aeon, which took a beating last year from unseasonable weather, poor clothing sales, lower profit margins and intensifying competition stemming from an industry-wide floor expansion drive. *Reuters*

Qantas to launch budget airline

SINGAPORE/SYDNEY—Australia's biggest airline, Qantas Airways Ltd., said on Tuesday it plans to launch a Singapore-based budget carrier in a bid to tap the growing market for low-cost travel in Asia.

Qantas said the new airline, which will be a joint venture with the Singapore government investment agency Temasek Holdings and two Singapore businessmen, will start flying by the end of the year to Asian cities within five hours of the city state.

The owners will invest $60 million in the new airline, of which Qantas will take a 49.9 percent stake.

Temasek will hold 19 percent, and Singapore businessmen Tony Chew and F.F. Wong would own 21.1 percent and 10 percent respectively.

"This is a modest investment for Qantas but is an excellent opportunity to participate in the growing intra-Asia travel market," chief executive Geoff Dixon said in a statement.

Qantas, which is 19 percent owned by British Airways Plc, said it would use existing cash to fund its stake in the new airline.

Budget airlines have recently sprouted in Asia, challenging the dominance of full-service carriers such as Singapore Airlines and Malaysian Airline System Bhd.

The new airline will be the fifth budget air operator to fly to and from Singapore, following Thai AirAsia Co., a joint venture between Malaysian budget carrier AirAsia Sdn Bhd and Thailand's Shin Corp., and Jakarta-based Lion Air, which are both already operating flights.

Tiger Airways, a budget venture between Singapore Airlines and the founder of Irish discount airline Ryanair, and Valuair Ltd., set up by ex-Singapore Airlines, are also expected to start operations this year.

Temasek holds 11 percent in Tiger Airways, while Qantas already has a domestic discount airline called Jetstar, which is due to start flying in late May.

Qantas also owns Australian Airlines, launched in October 2002, which flies to Asian cities at cheaper rates than its parent. *Reuters*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR THE REHABILITATION OF

SP. PROC. NO. Q-03-041

MEGA MOTION WORK, INC and MEGA
MOTION AUTO SALES CORPORATION
Petitioners

ORDER

In the interest of justice, set the Rehabilitation Receiver's evaluation report dated March 1, 2004 for hearing on April 26, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. and April 30, 2004 at 2:00 P.M.

Serve copies of this Order upon the Rehabilitation Receiver Mr. Jose G. Araullo; petitioners; and all counsels and/or all other interested parties.

The petitioners/Rehabilitation Receiver are ordered to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and The Philippine Star on April 10, 2004 (Saturday) in the business section of said newspapers.

SO ORDERED
Quezon City, March 19, 2004

REYNALDO B. DAWAY
Presiding Judge

PRULINK
PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week April 06 2004	Last Week March 30, 2004
Bond Fund - Peso	1.11106	1.10903
Managed Fund - Peso	1.16347	1.14655
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.01120	1.0160

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

B4

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2004

RATES

P245 per column centimeter

P75 per line

(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES

for reservations / cancellations / corrections

Mondays to Saturdays	Sundays
12:00 noon	12:00 noon
Day before publication	every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

Macho Guyz 0920-4540607

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE 11A Kamias QC 4350978

Mr WORLD REFLEX 632 Shaw Blvd EDSA 5321851

Piolo 0917-8534686

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

Male Massuers Ask JOEL 24Hours 751-3315

THAI Msge Lic 0921-2020428

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09195367404

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LIGHT 5301315 / 5268216

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DIRECT MAIDS YAYA BOY 7284093

P303 15.8
#223593 eps

GOOD CARING MAIDS 535-9317 • 0927-4806767

Good Maid Yaya Boy 4214652

Maids Caregivers 4128513 3664375

QUALITY MAIDS 421-3828

LIPAT BAHAY

CLOSED ALUM VAN 8240568

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

Rush 4BR/2B Gar 172sqm 1.8 Neg Susan 09173988011

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort 12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-0313226

MANILA

1BR Ermita 0917-8463228

LOT

MAKATI

SAN LAZARO VILL. 7001393

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

Bful Magallanes 90T 8691937

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048/49

Jason 3rd Massage 4372542

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

OFFICE SPACE 4 LEASE
134 SQM @ Taft Avenue
Near Buendia 400-0848
842-6870 Bobby

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

CRV 2001 20T MILEAGE P.ORANGE P750 # VICKY 2513941

TOYOTA

RUSH '92 Corolla XE 15mags 130T neg DBO 09178354797

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

PUBLIC NOTICES

CARS FOR RENT

Cars Vans Altis 825-4058

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

STAREX MB100 HIACE 8277135

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Siberian Husky F 60T Shih Tzu F 2.5 old 20T 0920-2893941

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
DIAMONDS/JEWELRY
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONORA BLANCO-FUENTES & ANDRES O. FUENTES, who died in Angono, Rizal on March 5, 1995 & January 1, 1990 respectively, has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc. 404, Page 91, Book I, Series of 2004 of Notary Public Baltazar Abasolo of Rizal. (PDI-Mar. 25, Apr. 1, & 8 2004)

NOTICE is hereby served that the estate of the spouses **ARISTON ARANDILLA and ROSITA F. ARANDILLA** was extrajudicially settled by the heir per Doc. No. 403, Page No. 81, Book No. II, Series of 1994 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Loreto Ildefonso-Orense, Notary Public of Manila
(PDI-April 3, 8 & 17, 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **MIGUEL Z. BERBA** has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement identified as Doc. No. 176, Page No. 37, Book No. 2, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Rodel R. Nayve. (PDI-April 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Wack Wack Golf & Country Club Stock Cert. No. 559 issued to Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr. have been lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued. (PDI 4/ 1, 8 & 15, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Columbary P15T 0917-5389218

Hu Do u knw in Singapore? 8531008 09178901851 earnextranow.com Code: ATB2004

EXTRA INCOME 0920-8254033•0918-9942801

I NEED MEDICINES HOSP SUPPLIES & EQUIPT ANY QNTY TXT /CALL09275282875 Kristine

NEW in Phil & Overseas Huge Global Biz for You www.interlink.com.sg

Who Answers a Job For P35/hr? Who Answers An Ad Where the Biz Can Give U P300K/mth? Are U Worth More? Call Singapore Bizmen @ 0927-5127468

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DIRECT SALE

SIDELINE: JEWELRY CONSIGN ORIENTATION M-S@8-8 4531478

SIDELINE: JEWELRY CONSIGN ORIENTATION M-S@8-8 4531478

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

4 A Person Want 2 Earn P15T or more 8976276-77

WTC Urgently Needs Teachers 5 English and 2 General Science Call 0921-2535052 829-0978

The OFW is your Market. Join this event!

Book your exhibit booth spaces NOW!

OFWNet presents

The 2nd Overseas Filipinos Worldwide (OFW) Trade Show and Seminar

Theme: 'Overseas Filipinos Economic Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship'
April 16-18, 2004
Hall 3, SM Megatrade, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

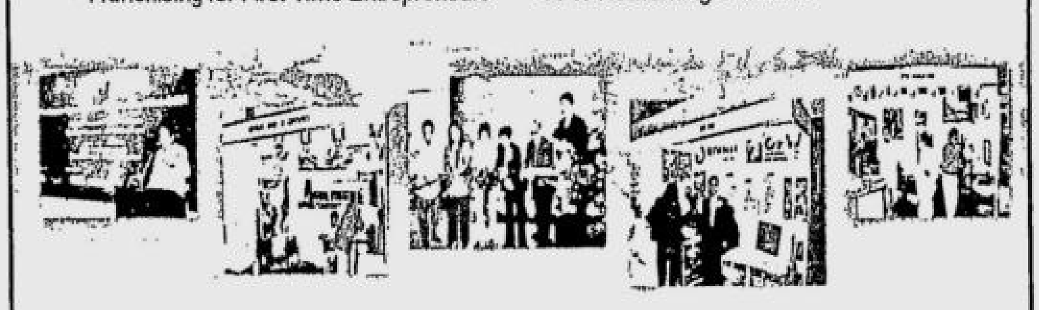
- 3-day trade exhibit showcasing business opportunities and investments for OFWs and their families
- 3-day entrepreneurship seminar for OFWs and their families
- Business matching activities and meetings
- Entrepreneurship presentations of participating companies
- Social and fellowship night of OFWs
- City tours for OFWs and their families

EXHIBIT PROFILE

- Remittance and Financial Services
- Travel Agencies, Transportation, Tour Packages
- Micro Financing and Leasing
- Insurance Companies
- Franchising Business
- Banks and Credit Card Companies
- Manpower Services (Land/Sea-based)
- Real Estate and Properties
- Telecommunication Companies
- Freight Forwarders and Shipping Companies
- Health Care and Medical Services/Companies
- Computer Training Institutes/Centers
- Computer Hardware and Software
- Print and Online Media
- Fresh and Processed Food Products
- Natural/Herbal/Organic Products

SEMINAR TOPICS

- Kalayaan sa Kakapusan
- Pagnenegosyo 101/Entrepreneurship Basic
- Building Successful Business Plans
- Franchising for First-Time Entrepreneurs
- Franchise Business Presentations
- Entrepreneurship Case Studies
- Business and Product Demonstrations
- OFW Networking Sessions



Reserve Your Booth Spaces NOW.

Organized By: OFWNet

Major Sponsor: OFW International Holdings, Inc.

Media Partners: Philippine Daily Inquirer

Call: (632) 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6893, Email: fiera@info.com.ph
Visit Website: http://www.fmi.com.ph, http://www.ofwfoundation.net

---

GIA

Thailand Campus

Learn from the world's #1 gemological institute
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

Gain professionalism with gems
From the world's leading authority

Colored Stones Diploma Program
starts June 7, 2004

GIA Thailand Since 1993

Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

Province of Aklan
Republic of the Philippines
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date : 8 April 2004
Contract ID No.: SP-060-IN-01
World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the **Expansion, Rehabilitation and Upgrading of the Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital to a Second Level Referral (Tertiary Non-Teaching) Hospital.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*

2. The Province of Aklan invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the expansion, rehabilitation and upgrading of the Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital to a Second Level Referral (Tertiary Non-Teaching) Hospital. The Works consists of:
   1. Construction of a 3-Storey Building
   2. Relocation/Construction of Canteen
   3. Renovation of South Building
   4. Renovation of Main Building
   5. Relocation of Bridgeway Connecting South and Main Building
   6. Repainting and Retiling of North Building
   7. Upgrading of Hospital Façade
   8. Construction of Mortuary Building
   9. Construction of New Powerhouse
   10. Construction of Entrance Gate and Guardhouse
   11. Site Development
   12. Conversion of Physical Therapy Building to Maintenance Building
   13. Construction of Two-Units Pathological Waste Chamber
   14. Repair of Doctors' Quarter
   15. Repair of Nurses' Quarter
   16. Construction of Medical Storage
   17. Upgrading of Existing Powerhouse
   18. Installation of Centralized Medical Pipeline (Built-in Oxygen / Suction Pipes)
   19. Other Electrical Works (transformer assembly, transformer pad, re-routing of existing feeders)

3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting **9 April 2004 to 13 May 2004** at the Sub-Project Management Office, Provincial Guesthouse, Capitol Site, Kalibo, Aklan, Tel. No. 036-262-1090 upon payment to the Provincial Treasurer's Office of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of Two Million Eight Hundred Pesos (P2,800,000.00) in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Chairman, Provincial Governor's Office, Guesthouse, Capitol Site, Kalibo, Aklan on or before 9:00 A.M., **13 May 2004** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. A pre-bid conference will be held at 9:00 A.M., **29 April 2004** at the Conference Room, Provincial Governor's Office, Guesthouse, Capitol Site, Kalibo, Aklan.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. VICTORY M. FERNANDEZ**
Provincial Engineer
Chairman

(PDI-April 8, 2004)

May 10, 2004
National and Local Elections

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 8, 2004 and
GOOD FRIDAY – April 9, 2004

CAMPAIGNING IS PROHIBITED

A reminder from the Commission on Elections

NFA-FDC offers training on the establishment of thermal processes for canned foods

THE Food Development Center of the National Food Authority is inviting food processors from the canned food industry to participate in a training course on the establishment of thermal processes for canned foods to be held on March 16 to 19, 2004 at the FDC compound, FTI Complex, Tagig, Metro Manila.

The training aims to upgrade the technical capability of participants from the canned food industry in establishing adequate thermal processes for canned foods. The training was designed for technical personnel with education background in food science, food engineering, microbiology or any related fields and industry experience in food canning.

The course consist of lecture-discussions, hands-on exercises and demonstrations, slides presentation and an examination to monitor the learning process.

Course fee is set at P6,500 per person inclusive of lunches, snacks and a shuttle bus service from Makati to the venue and vice versa. Checks should be made payable to the FDC-NFA.

Participants may stay at the FDC Dormitory with air-conditioned rooms that can accommodate 2 persons per room. Adjoining rooms share a toilet and bath with hot shower. Room charge is P790 per day for double occupancy and P600 per room per day for single occupancy.

For further inquiries, interested participants may call Ms. Amelia Bautista of FDC-NFA at telephone numbers 838-4014 to 16, 838-4601 or through fax numbers 838-4016. You may also e-mail the FDC at infofdc@pacific.net.ph.

The NFA accepts text messages from the public on suggestions, inquiries or complaints relative to the agency's projects and programs through the NFA's text messaging system. Text concerns via mobile phone number 0917-6210927.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008 11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."
— Psalm 21:15

In Loving Memory

On the 8th Death Anniversary of

ASUNCION M. GEMPERLE

August 7, 1931 – April 11, 1996

We, her family, together with her brothers, sisters, and relatives, request the kindly reader to remember her in prayer.

Holy Mass will be offered on Sunday, April 11, 2004 at the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio McKinley Road, Forbes Park Makati City	6:15 A.M. 7:30 A.M. 12:15 Noon 6:00 P.M.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 A.M. 7:00 A.M. 11:00 A.M. 6:00 P.M.
St. John Bosco (Don Bosco) Parish Pasay Road, Makati City	6:30 A.M. 7:30 A.M. 12:30 P.M. 5:45 P.M.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Doña Juana, New Manila, Q.C	6:30 A.M. 7:30 A.M. 12:00 Noon 6:00 P.M.
Christ The King Parish Greenmeadows, Quezon City	11:30 A.M. 6:30 P.M.
Santuario de San Jose Greenhills East, San Juan Metro Manila	6:15 A.M. 7:15 A.M. 12:00 Noon 6:15 P.M.
Mary The Queen Parish Greenhills West, San Juan Metro Manila	6:00 A.M. 7:00 A.M. 12:00 Noon 6:00 P.M.

In Loving Memory

on the Third Death Anniversary of

DR. LELAND S. VILLADOLID

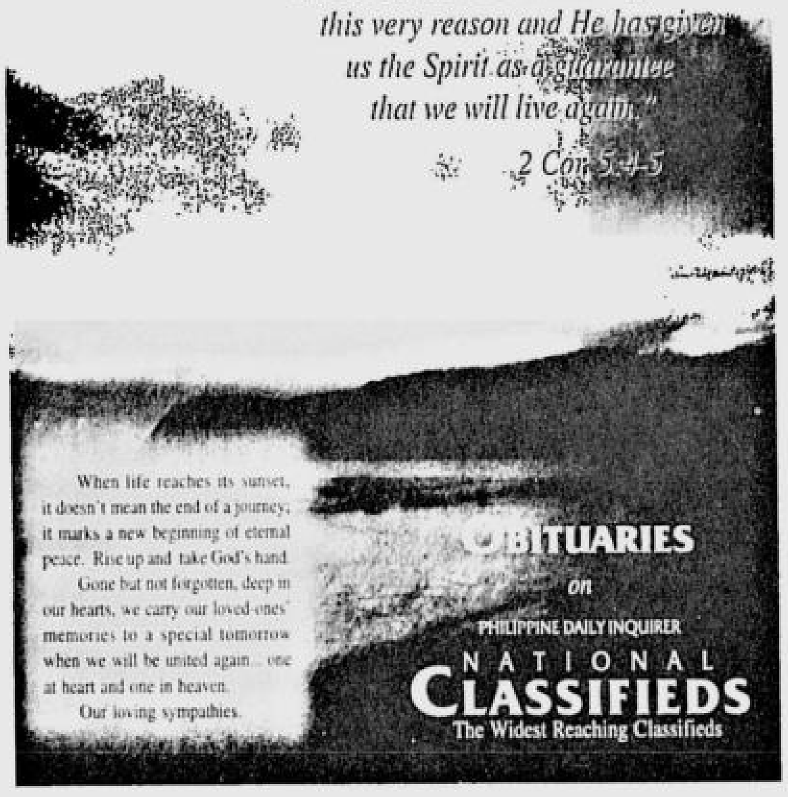
An expert in Internal Medicine, Thyroidology, Endocrinology and Nuclear Medicine
Undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology (1986-1988)

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on April 11, 2001.

Holy Masses will be offered today, Thursday, April 8, 2004 at the following

Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	9:00 a.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Timog, Quezon City	9:00 a.m.
Makati Medical Center Chapel, Makati City	7:00 a.m.
Colegio de San Agustin Chapel, Dasmariñas Village, Makati	9:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Church, Dao, Makati City	9:00 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City	8:45 a.m.

His loving wife **Ming**; loving children **Connie** and **Mulo**, **Vicky** and **Don**, **Leland Jr.** and **Marivic**, **Paul**, **Katrina** and **Ito**; grandchildren **Bianca**, **Jason**, **Javi**, **Nico**, **Pocholo** and **Pascale**; siblings and in-laws **Lydia** and **Felix Sibal**, **Oscar** and **Alice Villadolid**, **Doy** and **Naty Villadolid**, **Purita** (†) and **Pelayo Perez**(†), **Norma** and **Celso Reinoso**; relatives and friends request you to remember him in your prayers.



"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.
Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.
Our loving sympathies.

OBITUARIES on PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

FE S. GABRILLO-MINGLANA

(1942-2004)
of Cebu City

Died in the Peace of our Lord on April 2, 2004 at the age of 61.

Her loving husband **Jesus R. Minglana**; children **Jeffe**, **Faith**, **Jim**, **Cherissa** and **Johanna**; and sisters **Edwina** and **Celia** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at her home, Block 52 Lot 46 Zone 2, Upper Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Necrological Services will be at Silangan Elementary School, Maharlika Road, Taguig on April 11, 2004 at 8:00 a.m.

Interment will also be on Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." — 2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory
on the
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of

ALFREDO "PAPA FRED" DY HABABAG, SR.

July 15, 1919 - April 8, 2003

Mass will be offered at the following:

1. Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Casiguran, Sorsogon 5:00 PM
2. Mary Immaculate Catholic Church 390 South Sequoia, Dr. West Palm Beach, Florida 33409 USA 5:00 PM

Pious readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

From his loving wife
Consolacion "Chita" B. Uy Hababag
& family

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch A.S. Fortuna Street Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City; Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City; Tels. 416-3231; 4162373
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City; Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959; (045) 322-5247
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42 (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex
Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0777
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291, Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque, Tels. 820-1592, 825-9947, 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337, (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1978
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209, 682-0210
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
Tels. 283-1613, 273-8922
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City; Tels. (075) 515-5960, 522-8783, (0917) 520-5001
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870; Tel. No. 697-0782, 697-0026, 650-7426, Fax 697-2764
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725, 646-1730
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
PRIME MEMORIAL CHAPELS
200 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 427-8412, 4278403
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838-40, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3679, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084, 410-9286-87
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tels. 493-4458, 493-4540
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801, 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna; Tels. (049) 562-1668, 800-2914; Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Easter Egg-citement at the SM malls

IT'S FUN and egg-citement as the SM Supermalls celebrate Easter this April.

Kids can participate in cool activities with lots of color and artistry like Egg Painting, and have fun decorating eggs on April 5 to 11 at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the best of which will be displayed in the malls. They can also learn art stuff like Funny Ears Paper Tearing to create their own funny bunny ears, as well as Easter Mobile Cut Out Art, where they can make Easter shapes and characters to hang from their own Easter mobile. These two "art-ivities" are scheduled at 1 to 3 p.m. at all SM Malls.

It's likewise bunny's best day on Easter Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. as kids draw and paint My Bunnies and Me or learn to make their own Easter Bunny from colored clay in the Bunny Making activity.

Easter is also a great day to go around the mall, and have your photo taken beside the giant egg, and have free balloons.

Kids can also take time out for an Easter Gimmik on Ice. Every purchase of three regular ice skating tickets entitles one to Fuji Film-YKL Photo's free souvenir photo on ice and a special game or Nido's Milky Bar loot bag.

Have a bowl at the SM Bowling Center and a free Nido Milky Bar for every four games played. Better still, "Strike a Vegas Holiday." Every five games played at the SM Bowling Center entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win a trip for two to Las Vegas, USA.

Meanwhile, its an Easter Egg-scapade at Storyland, the country's most exciting indoor theme park.

The fun begins as guests enter the park on Easter Sunday, April 11. Ride-All-You-Can holders, not only have a fun time with Storyland's rides and attractions, but a get a chance to win Easter treats at Storyland's Egg Booth. Just present your wrist tag, pick an egg and win egg-citing prizes.

There's also an Egg-citing Easter Party for Club Storyland members. Everything's coming up eggs at the party: an egg catching contest, an Easter egg hunt, and an egg-citing challenge.

Kids also have a chance to try out-egg-citing arts and crafts: egg painting, egg shell visual art applications. Registration is at 1 p.m., party time at 3 p.m. at the Storyland Theater.

Capping the festivities is a Mindset production of Good vs. Evil, a play based on the story One True King.

Legend has it that Shiro, a peasant boy with a good heart and courage was able to save a crystal egg, which was believed to bring peace and prosperity, from an evil sorcerer, and bring it back home. As a reward, he was offerd to be king of Sordu, but because of his humility, he was happy enough to have done his part and go back to his family.

Celebrate Easter at the SM Malls!

AN EASTER TREAT FOR POOR KIDS AT SM

Children's International recently treated seven hundred less fortunate children to a pair of shoes and socks at the SM Department Store at SM City Fairview. The kids, accompanied by their parents and guardians, excitedly went around the store's Children's Shoes Department for their shoes, and were happy to go home with two or three pairs just in time for Easter. No less than Children's International president and CEO James Cook helped the kids choose their shoes. Joining him were SM officials led by president Tessie Sy-Coson. Founded in 1936 in Kansas City, USA, Children's International has been operating in the Philippines since 1990 through Abot Kamay Inc. Its mission is to help less fortunate children by providing them with program benefits and services to meet their basic needs. Its vision is for the poor children to grow into healthy, educated and self-reliant adults. Children's International is currently helping over 250,000 underprivileged kids and families around the world. Apart from the kids who visited SM City North Edsa, they will also be giving shoes to a total of 17,893 children at SM City Fairview, SM City North Edsa and SM City Pampanga. Shown are SM president Teresita Sy-Coson with Children's International president James Cook, and their beneficiary kids at SM City Fairview.

Zoll
sobrang sakit.

DOLPHY ENDORSES DOLFENAL

Dolphy recently signed up with Therapharma Inc, a product Division of United Laboratories Inc and exclusive distributor of (Mefenamic Acid) Dolfenal 250mg, at the Therapharma conference room in Bonaventure, Greenhills last March 3. Present during the ceremonial contract signing were (seated from left): McCann Erickson SVP Joey Venezuela, Unilab cluster head Manolito Co, Rodolfo 'Dolphy' Quizon, and Therapharma general manager James Dio. Witnessing were (standing from left): Dolfenal brand manager Marissa Young, Therapharma marketing director John Dumpit, Unilab somatics franchise head May Salita and Therapharma operations director Nomer Garcia.

Globe, Petron offer roadside motorist assistance this Holy Week

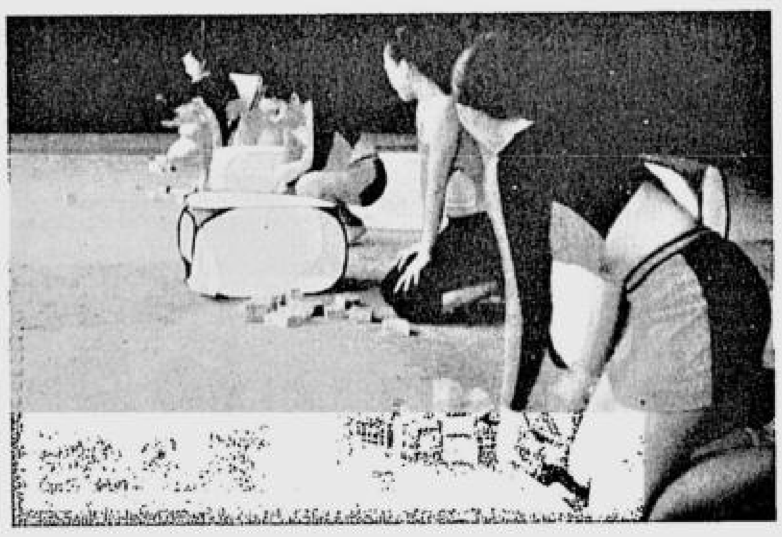
OUT of town religious pilgrimages and beach-hopping are pretty much the annual Holy Week rituals for most city folk. Every year, the jubilant holiday spirit of these road trips are spoiled because of car engine trouble, flat tire or engine over heat encountered while on the road. Globe Handyphone, in partnership with Petron, will be providing a Motorist Assistance Program, which is designed to help any Filipino traveling throughout the country during the Holy Week. This program will be available from April 7 to 11.

Globe is encouraging everyone to avail of the free Gas Emission Testing, special maintenance and general repair packages being offered at participating Petron stations before they hit the road.

Should any motorist encounter any vehicle mishap or problem while traveling out of town for the Holy Week, they can easily get roadside assistance by simply dialing the following Globe-Petron Hotlines assigned to the different participating Petron Stations located in various strategic points across the North and South Superhighways: 0927-3327000-01 in NLEX, Marilao, Bulacan; 0927-3327002-03 in NLEX, Bocaue, Bulacan; 0927-3327004-05 in SLEX, San Pedro, Laguna; 0927-3327006 in Sta Rita Interchange; 0927-3327007 in San Fernando Interchange; 0927-3327008 in Silangan Interchange; 0927-3327009 in Star Tollways, Bulihan Interchange.

Globe Prepaid Subscribers who run out of prepaid phone credits while on the road may easily replenish their spent account via Globe AutoloadMAX which is readily available at the aforementioned Petron Stations. Filipino travelers may also make free emergency calls there.

CAREFREE FACTOR KICKS OFF AT UP



With the launch of their new Fresh Fun Packs, Carefree takes fun and excitement to the next level with Carefree Factor. Last March 8, Carefree challenged the U.P. Cheerleaders with fresh dares and fun tasks that left the audience of 2,500 screaming and clamoring for more. The Carefree Factor fever moves on to Watson's SM Fairview on March 20, 3 to 7 p.m., Watson's Robinson's Galleria on March 27, 3 to 7 p.m., Watson's SM Manila on April 17, 3 to 7 p.m., and culminates in the Grand Finals Round on April 24, 3 to 7 p.m. at Watson's SM Megamall. All girls, aged 15 to 30 who wish to join may simply purchase Carefree in one of the 4 new Fresh Fun Packs, present proof of purchase and sign up in person on any of the mentioned dates in those specific venues. Up for grabs are state-of-the-art cellular phones from Samsung, cool clothes and shopping spree certificates from Penshoppe, and loads of gifts from Carefree. So if fun and freshness are more your style, take the Carefree Factor challenge!

ProductFILES

GlobeAutoloadMAX made more flexible with P25 credits and pa-piso-pisong dagdag

GLOBE
AUTOLOAD
MAX
MAY
P25 NA,
pa-piso-pisong
dagdag pa!

WORRIED about not having enough money to reload your prepaid account? Fret no more! Globe Prepaid has the biggest news for its ever-loyal subscribers: Globe AutoloadMAX introduces a reloading breakthrough that's sure to keep you connected with your family and friends!

With Globe AutoloadMAX, you can now load for as low as P25 to as high as P150 down to your last peso. Apart from the very affordable P25 load, may pa-piso-pisong dagdag na sa Globe AutoloadMAX. You can opt to load P25, P26, P27, P28, etc. Each denomination will have a corresponding load and account expiry depending on how your usage and requirements.

Purchasing load credits is now affordable, flexible and convenient. With even just a few pesos, you can enjoy the flexibility of purchasing your load credits depending your cash on hand. All you have to do is find a Globe AutoLoad station and get instantly reconnected.

What's good about this is that with hundreds and thousands of Globe AutoloadMAX retailers nationwide (eg. 7- Eleven outlets, selected Petron Stations, drugstores, sari-sari stores, etc.), you can easily find a Globe reloading station where you can buy your prepaid loads. Even during emergencies, no matter where you are, you can be assured that there's a Globe AutoloadMAX reloading station nearby.

With Globe AutoloadMAX, may P25 na, at pa-piso-pisong dagdag pa! A truly MAX sulit way of reloading that will fit your budget. Enjoy this new innovation pioneered by Globe Prepaid! Visit your nearest AutoloadMAX dealer and purchase loads from P25-P150 now!

Clips

Soundtracks for Easter

THERE are soundtracks especially created to celebrate the hope and renewal that Easter brings. From veteran writers and arrangers Greg Nelson and David Hamilton come the Easter musicale "My Redeemer Lives." It contains fresh arrangements of favorite hymns woven together with classic contemporary Christian songs. This and many more are available from Praise Inc which offers a vast catalog of music for the soul. Its retail arm, the House of Praise, is located in all major malls in the country. For inquiries, contact 920-5291 loc. 139 or visit www.praise.com.ph.

Mario's Kitchen Lenten treat

MARIO'S Kitchen respects the no-meat-at-Lent tradition by coming up with great-even-without-meat fare. There is Angel Hair Pasta, another favorite pasta dish is the Shrimp Marucca. For an added vegetable treat, you can try the Vegetarian Sandwich. For fish and seafood lovers, try the Pescado Rebozado, Fish and Chips as well as the Fish Fillet with Mango Salsa. These and more only at Mario's Kitchen with branches at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Ermita. For inquiries call 633-5995 or 302-0915.

Easter Egg Hunt at StarMall

ON APRIL 11, bring the kids to the Easter Egg Hunt and Carnival Show happening simultaneously at Starmall Edsa, Starmall Las Piñas and Metropolis Star Alabang. Kids will spend the day egg hunting with the Easter Bunny, watch a clown show and see magic tricks while enjoying their favorite flavor of Nestle Ice Cream. Other star-filled events are lined up for this April so visit the Star Group of Malls which is composed of Starmall Edsa, MStar Las Piñas, Metropolis Star Alabang and Starmall Las Piñas.

Lyra Summer Art Clinic

THE ART Clinic offers boys and girls, aged 4 to 16 years old (adults can enroll too), a comprehensive course that teaches basic and advanced rendering skills, including techniques on drawing and sketching, coloring and painting. The module fee is P1,800. Schedules are: 10 sessions, M-F 8 to 10 a.m. or M-F 2 to 4 p.m.; April 12 to 23, April 26 to May 7; and May 10 to 21, May 24 to June 4. Registration forms and payments may be made at the 3/F, Prince Bldg., Rada St. Legaspi Village, Makati City, tel nos. 812-5795 and 812-6316.

Templo attends Hawaii confab

TEMPLO

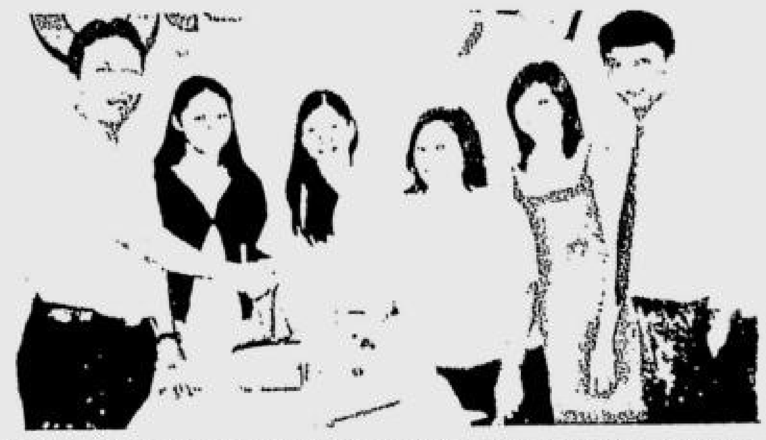
NAIA District Collector VI of the Bureau of Customs, Celso Templo, is attending the 1st International Conference on Asian Organized Crime and Terrorism at the Honolulu Oahu USA, Hyatt Regency Hotel on April 11 to 16. The theme of the conference is "Bridging the Gap to Networking Communications." It should be noted that Templo has been responsible for many apprehensions of illegal entry of goods.

WINNING WITH A SPLASH

Gawad Splash is a prestigious annual awards and recognition being given to outstanding Splash distributors for their contribution to the overall sales achievement for the year 2003. Health and Beauty and Perfection Marketing of Dagupan City were able to garner three major awards out of the seven. HBPM was nominated five times and was awarded as the distributor of the year for Best in Sales and Product Management categories. In the picture are (from left): Dra. Rosalinda Ang Hortaleza, chief financial officer of Splash Corp, vice chair, Susie Andrey, Arthur Andrey, Dagupan distributor and Dr. Rolando Hortaleza, chair and CEO of Splash Corp. The awarding was held at the Intercon Hotel, Makati City.

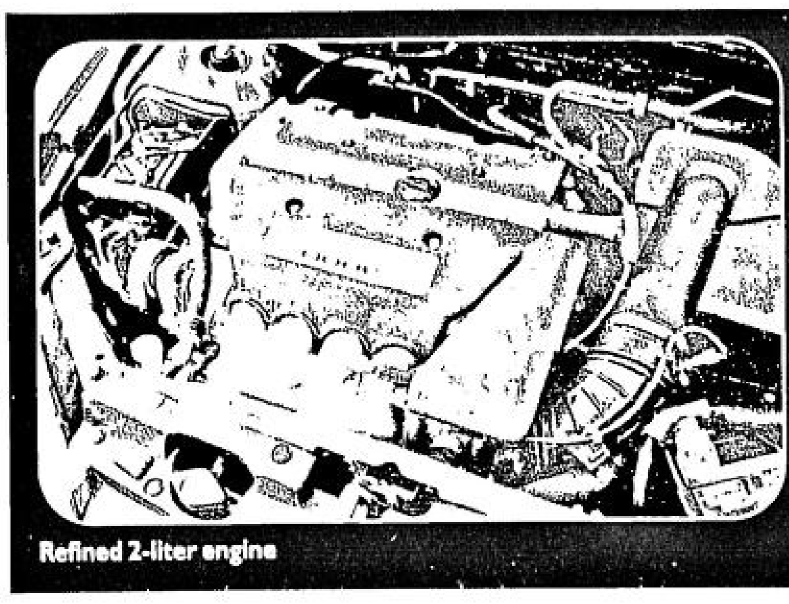
WATCH D' NGEK NGEK! AT FUNLINE

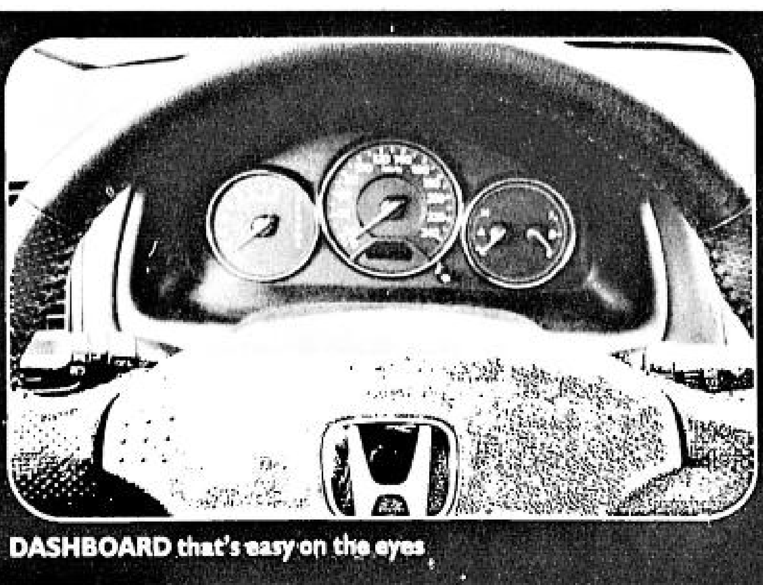
D' Ngek Ngek!, a group of comedians consisting of Jun F, Regi Aso and MC, from Willie's Funline (Roxas and Quezon Blvd), will soon be launching their VCD live performance to be released under AV Works in cooperation with Backstage Entertainment, entitled D' Best of Philippine Stand-Up Comedians.

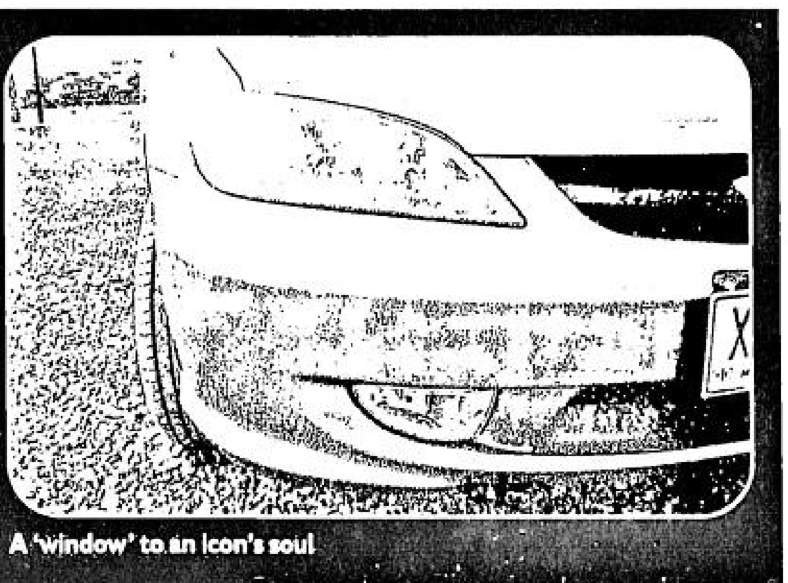


STAR KIDZ MODELING AND DANCE WORKSHOP '04

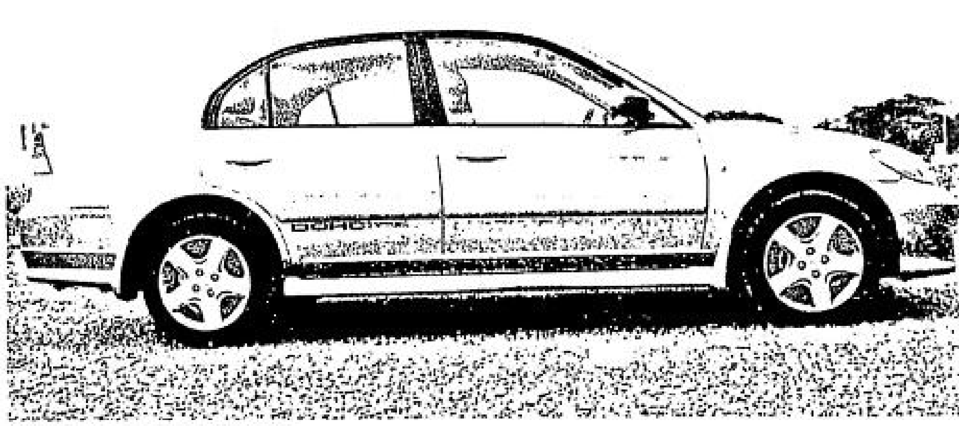
True Aces Production Inc, a company that specializes in talents and events management, will be staging a weekend summer fashion show entitled 'Star Kidz Shine! @ Storyland' on May 29 and 30 at Storyland SM Fairview. Shown in photo during the contract signing are (from left): Ferdinand Ramos, operations manager, Storyland SM Fairview; Edzel Lapira, Storyland marketing coordinator; Chato Tungol, Storyland club operation assistant; Roselle Suan, general manager; RVS Exposition and Convention Specialist, the event marketing partner of the show; Thess Robless, marketing manager of True Aces and PJ Tuico, operations manager of True Aces. This live entertainment by today's upcoming talented young boys and girls ages 5 to 12 years old will showcase their talents as part of their culminating activity on modeling and dancing workshop which will start on April 14 up to May 16. For more details, contact 373-6139, 952-7814 or text 0917-622-5327 or 0919-208-9622.


Refined 2-liter engine


DASHBOARD that's easy on the eyes


A 'window' to an icon's soul

The 2-liter comfort zone


One side of the 2-liter pie

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Alex P. Loinaz

PHENOMENAL best describes the Honda Civic, both in sales and car performance.

In March 2003, the worldwide cumulative production of the Honda Civic series reached 15 million units. The Civic had become a fitting symbol of Honda as soon as the model was first released as a small, fuel-efficient front-wheel-drive car way back in July 1972.

Now, the iconic Civic is being sold in 160 countries, and has been consistently Honda's best-selling vehicle on a global basis for more than 20 years.

Cult following

In the Philippines, the Civic has gained cult following. Every time Honda produces a new Civic model, it has to toe a thin line for its hardcore followers, and each new model out of the assembly line immediately becomes the subject for comparison with the one that came before it. To whom much is given, much is expected. And for the Civic, which has been heaped with accolade upon accolade over the years, Honda aficionados expect nothing less than perfection.

The introduction of a 2-liter Civic raised the bar of expectations a few notches higher still. Many performance-standard Civic seekers, however, were a bit disappointed when the two-liter Civic (CKD assembled in the Philippines, and is also available in Thailand in right-hand-drive) was available only in automatic transmission.

> There's no use forcing this Civic to act and behave like a racehorse. The engine is nice and smooth, with minimal vibration, which is fine for negotiating through city traffic

Safety features

If you are looking for the manual transmission 2-liter Civic, you won't find it. What you will find, however, is the comfort of a luxury car befitting that of Accord owners, as evidenced by the smooth transmission and the nice cushion of the suspension. It obediently stays down on rough roads, while the braking system is smooth and dependable with the antilock brake system, 14" ventilated disc in front and 14" solid disc at the rear. It is also complete with safety features featuring dual airbags.

Reinforcing its focus on luxury rather than performance driving, interior amenities encourage easy driving. Sound insulation invites quiet conversations inside the car. The armrest eases weary arms from driving. The interior has the stove-type switches, as well, so you don't have to take your eyes off the road to make quick adjustments. The Civic 2.0 i-VTEC's audio system is equipped with an Alpine 2-din first-rate audio entertainment system that is MP3 and Windows Media Audio-capable. Its built-in Media Xpander enhances audio quality.

The material used for the seat is called Buffalo leather. Animal lovers may cringe at this classy but rather cruel touch.

Not a racehorse

There's no use forcing this Civic to act and behave like a racehorse. The engine is nice and smooth, with minimal vibration, which is fine for negotiating through city traffic. But that "kick" in power—from a standing start—comes out really late, as if the car hesitates, wondering if you really want to go in a hurry or you just happened to stretch your right leg nonchalantly and inadvertently floored the gas pedal.

This shouldn't have been much of a problem with us. But ever since we learned that Honda was about to "unleash" a 2-liter version of the Civic, we were already licking our chops and flexing our right ankles. In short, we were expecting a racehorse.

And now we have the A/T version, and just that. We just felt we were given cake with the icing and the sugar flower missing. Given the potential of the 2-liter engine, we plead for Honda to add a manual transmission version.

Until that happens, performance seekers would have to make do with the A/T and try Honda tech guy Noel Umpad's advice: If you want power, step on the gas pedal more. "You can try it even in D4. But if you want more response, put it in D3 and do not release the accelerator pedal as long as you can take it.

If you're overtaking, just floor the gas pedal and do not release it until the task is finished, or you can lift the shift lever from D4 to D3 before pushing the gas pedal down.

World trend

Honda reasons out that the trend around the world for automakers has been toward more automatic transmission cars.

We also wondered where Honda engineers put the D1 shift in the 2-liter Civic. We didn't get the chance to see how this Civic would handle prolonged uphill climbs on, for example Baguio, when there is no D1 shift option.

Honda technicians reason that all the D1 or Drive 1 shift we needed was already in the D4 position, where the take-off starts from first gear. The same transmission takeoff occurs in D3. (D2, of course, means the transmission stayed on second gear only and is normally useful in slippery road conditions.

D3, the sport mode, features longer shift points or intervals. This means, though, that you have to step on the gas pedal more. This mode is also used for winding, hilly roads.

One major area of concern we have observed occurs during 60 kph turns. The front suspension seems to be too "soft" and the outer front side of the Civic lurches extremely forward. We double-checked all of the tires' pressure and found all of them inflated just right.

Perhaps the sway or antiroll bars need to be reexamined.

Verdict: The SiR can breathe a sigh of relief, its stature as Honda's most accessible performance car still secure. The P950,000 2-liter Civic, surprisingly, has been "schooled" for the finer class of motorists—executives who are content knowing they have a 2-liter engine under the hood of a Civic that has been lavished with Accord-like creature comforts. Quite a strange brute this Honda subspecies has evolved into, hasn't it?

A NEW Civic subspecies

WHO says 3,000 die every day on the road

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I AM sure most of you are now settled in your chosen destinations for the Holy Week. That includes the city holdouts, who always savor the rare silence once more that comes in the metropolis during this time of the year. We now have a noise-free and a traffic-hassle free weekend, thanks to Holy Week.

But with or without "The Passion" of Mel Gibson, may you try to find peace with yourself as you reflect on the Passion and Resurrection of our Dear Lord Jesus Christ.

Have a rewarding and soul-searching weekend. May the grace of the Risen Christ touch your lives and help you regain a new life that is steeped once more in goodness and kindness to your fellowmen.

* * *

The World Health Organization (WHO) has come up with this grisly report: Every day, over 3,000 persons die on the road. Also, WHO said 140,000 are injured, of which 15,000 are injured for life.

You think that's alarming enough?

Think again.

WHO said the number of people injured in traffic will have increased by 60 percent by the year 2020. It said a majority of these accidents would happen in the low- and middle-income countries in the world.

The WHO report came out days before the observance of the World Health Day yesterday, April 7.

* * *

Speaking of World Health Day, Volvo did its part in making this world a safer place to live in by distributing free reflectors around the world.

Volvo's campaign is a symbolic gesture that demonstrates many things, such as that it is important to be visible in traffic since a reflector makes a pedestrian up to 10 times more visible than anything in traffic.

The countries receiving Volvo's reflectors include Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, China, Russia, Latvia, Ukraine and, of course, the Philippines.

* * *

Said Ingrid Skogsmo, head of Volvo Cars Safety Center, of Volvo's noble move: "At Volvo Cars, we have always had an overall view of safety, and we know that everyone must cooperate in order to get results. This means that the public must be trained and informed, officials must be motivated, and traffic planners must play their part. And naturally, we in the automobile industry must do everything in our power."

I think our MMDA people should learn a thing or two from Ingrid.

Added Ingrid Skogsmo: "Often quite simple and inexpensive measures have the greatest impact. Like handing out reflectors. With increased visibility, much suffering could be avoided. By handing out reflectors in this way, we want to draw attention to an important measure, and we hope it will mean that reflectors will be used more widely from now on."

* * *

PAL GOES TO LAOAG. I raise my glass to Phlippine Airlines for deciding to have regular PAL flights to Laoag City. About time. No less than Tourism Secretary Obet Pagdanganan boarded the inaugural flight to Ilocandia's prime city up the tip of far North off west some days back. PAL's EVP Henry So Uy was among the big shots that graced the occasion together with PAL president Avelino Zapanta. "We didn't know the food in Ilocandia was that delicious," chorused Eugene Labadan and Lito Hibo of PAL's corporate communications headed by Rollie Estabillo, who were part of the PAL entourage to Laoag. Eugene and Lito were still swooning over Ilocandia's bagnet-spiked pinakbet and igado days after their sojourn to Marcos country. So enamored was Lito with the food that Henry and Ave have been quoted as telling Lito: "We believe that with these delicious foods, you will gain one inch in height before we even land in Manila."

* * *

This Holy Week and other holidays of the year, 10-wheeler trucks and other long vehicles should not be allowed to travel.

"There is no business anyway on holidays, so they should be grounded," said British businessman Rob Dix. "Only vehicles carrying perishable items should be given permit to travel."

I support Rob's suggestion. If adopted by our leaders, it would make for a traffic-free trip anywhere in the archipelago.

* * *

TOYOTA PRICES. Toyota's Big 3—the Rav4, Previa and Prado now come in delectable prices. Since February, their prices haven't changed: RAV4 4x4 A/T comes at P1,198,000 and the RAV4 4x2 M/T at P998,000; Previa 2.4 A/T P1,688,000; and, Prado 3.0 A/T P2,680,000, and Prado 3.0 M/T P2,580,000. The top-of-the-line 2004 Revo is pegged at P965,000 and the DLXDsl comes at P685,000. The high-end Altis 1.8 G A/T sells at P899,000, 1.8 E A/T P848,000, 1.6 E A/T P770,000, 1.6E M/T P735,000, 1.6 J M/T P670,000. The Vios 1.5 G A/T comes at P648,000, 1.5 G M/T P613,000, 1.3 E M/T P548,000. The elegant Camry 2/4 V sells at P1,430,000, 2.0G P1,310,000 and 2.0 E P1,200,000.

* * *

ISUZU MOVEMENT. After five years of being president of Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC), Toru Koyasu will go back to Tokyo for a new assignment at one of the Isuzu group of companies in Japan effective April 20. Since his assignment to IPC in April 1999, Mr. Koyasu has implemented programs that successfully carried the company toward improved and profitable operations and record sales. To succeed Koyasu-san is Yoshifumi Komura. If my tailor delivers my business suit on time, expect me to shake hands with Komura-san during his welcome party on April 15 at the Mandarin Oriental.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Because I want to reach my destination faster than usual, I will drive in moderate speed today.

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Sectors urged to make roads safer for kids

By Charles E. Buban

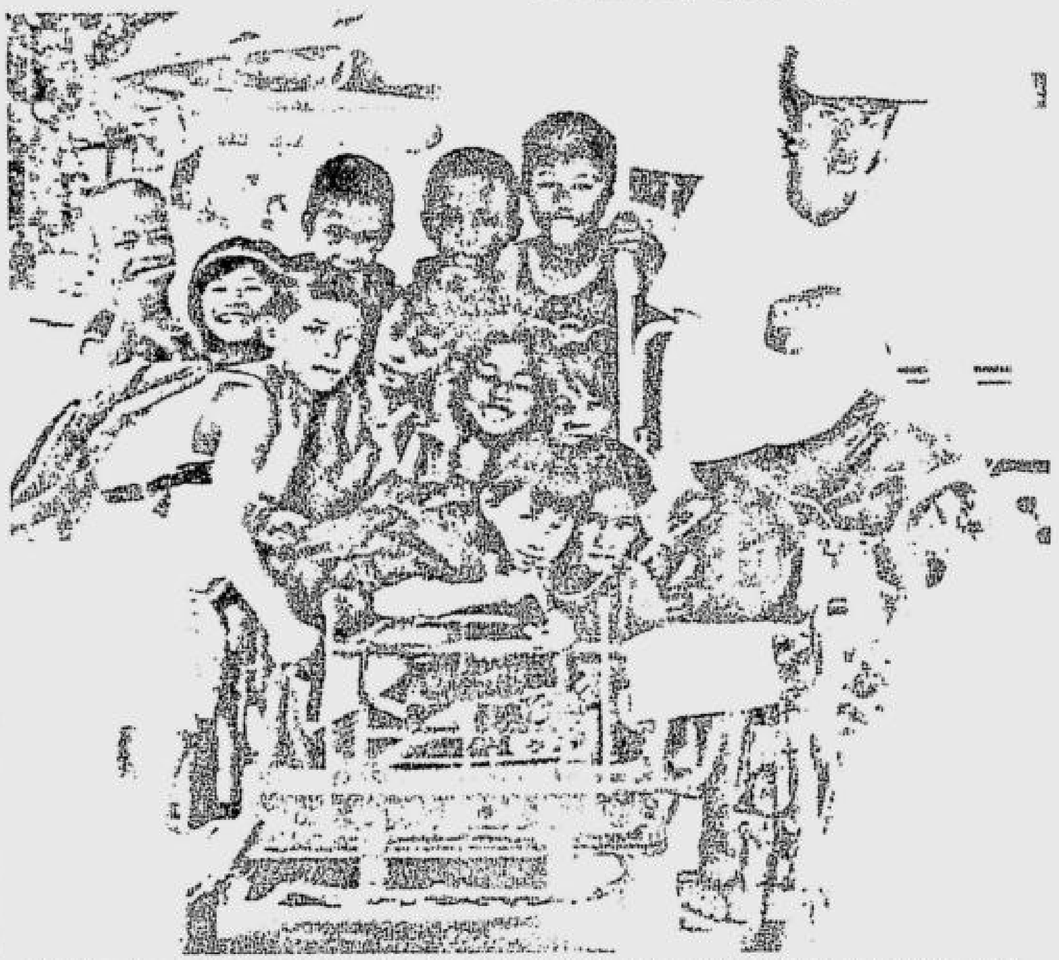
MOTOR vehicle crashes have become the second leading cause of death among children—14 years old and under—here in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury, nearly 67,000 children die in the region each year from motor vehicle crashes.

Most of these crashes occur in low- and middle-income countries where childhood road traffic injury death rate is at 11.6 per 100,000—nearly 2.5 times greater than that of the region's high-income countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and Japan, where the rate is at a low 4.7 per 100,000.

"If we don't do something now, this preventable injuries are poised to outrank diseases among children in developing nations in the next two decades," warned Health Undersecretary Tony Lopez during the launch of Safe Kids Walk This Way program, an international public awareness campaign for pedestrian safety.

Motor vehicle crashes rank ninth among the leading causes of disease burden worldwide, but if current trends will continue it will rank third highest by 2020, according to the World Health Organization.



MORE and more innocent schoolchildren are likely to be injured or killed every year if road safety rules will continue to be wantonly disregarded.

Global partnership

The program, a global partnership between Safe Kids Worldwide and FedEx (represented here by Safe Kids Philippines and AirFreight 2100), will work to improve the pedestrian environment and change driver behavior.

It will bring together parents, caregivers, FedEx volunteers and safety advocates to teach students safe pedestrian behavior, encourage motorist awareness of school zone safety and provide long-term support to communities by making neighborhoods and school zones safer for pedestrians.

Dr. Ramon Arcadio of Safe Kids Worldwide Philippines Inc. added that as a multifaceted program, Safe Kids Walk This Way will also include research, data collection and safety task forces involving local law enforcement agencies, all working to promote child pedestrian safety.

Proud partner

"AirFreight 2100 is proud to be a partner of Safe Kids Philippines. As the sole licensee of FedEx Express in the Philippines, we also share the world's largest express transportation company's concern to make our roads safer for everybody, especially children," said AirFreight 2100 chair Bert Lina.

AirFreight 2100 will encourage its employees to volunteer their time to educate schoolchildren about pedestrian safety.

A recent Safe Kids "walkability assessments" conducted by students at more than 270 schools in participating countries found serious hazards on at least half of the children's routes to school, including driver speeding, lack of sidewalks, complicated traffic conditions, improper parking and obstructed views of traffic.

"If we do something to address these serious hazards, then we can minimize or even eliminate injuries and deaths," said Lina.

Safe Kids and FedEx Express have been partners since 1999, when they created the first Walk This Way program in the United States.

WHO components

The Safe Kids Walk This Way program are components of the WHO's World Health Day, which adopted the theme Road Safety Is No Accident this year—the first time that motor vehicle crashes have been highlighted as a health risk.

The WHO aims to raise awareness of traffic safety in the hope of reducing the staggering number of traffic-related fatalities and injuries worldwide that occur each year.

To accomplish this goal, the WHO is encouraging individuals and organizations throughout the world to advocate for increased and sustained action in policy, programs, funding and research focusing on traffic safety.

Efforts was launched yesterday and will continue throughout the year.

WHO points out that the death toll is highest and still growing in low- and middle-income countries, where pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists and passengers are especially at risk taking the lives of 1.2 million around the world and seriously injuring millions more.

Globally, 180,000 children under the age of 15 die every year in motor vehicle crashes costing nations $520 billion (about P30 trillion) annually.

Safe Kids model

After five years and having worked with hundreds of thousands of students and hundreds of schools in the United States and South America, the program is now being replicated in Asia and elsewhere.

Each country's program is based on the Safe Kids model, which incorporates the following components:

- Education—to increase knowledge and change behavior with consumer communications, media campaigns and community-based activities.
- Empowerment—Empower parents and communities to take responsibility for their children's safety by fueling a national grassroots network.
- Environment—Increase the quality of children's lives by enhancing design, development and distribution of safety products, and by improving the environment in which children live and play.
- Enactment—Work to pass, strengthen and enforce laws, and encouraging the development of voluntary safety standards and guidelines to protect children.
- Evaluation—Determine the most effective behavior-changing strategies and programs through research, data collection and surveillance.

EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Catch AUTO EXTREME every Sunday, 3:30 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in this section.

IS it necessary to rev your car before you drive it?

—*Vincent John Bautista of Kalibo, Aklan*

REVVING your engine right after you start it is probably one of the worst things you can do because that is when your engine is least prepared to handle the strain. Fifty percent of all engine wear occurs in the first few seconds after you start the car. That's when the oil is still cold and thick and hasn't spread around thoroughly to all the places it's supposed to protect. By accelerating before the oil reaches the top of the engine cylinders, you speed up engine wear and can do a considerable amount of damage.

Another bad idea is sitting in your car with the motor running for several minutes to warm it up. With today's computer-controlled, fuel-injected engines, your car is all set to go right after you start it. Instead of idling for several minutes or revving your engine on a cold start, just drive gently for the first kilometer or two, or for about five minutes. Believe it or not, the engine warms up more efficiently while it's being driven, not while it's sitting idle. After all, things like wheel bearings, steering, suspension and transmission only warm up when your car is moving. On top of that, unnecessary car idling has been identified as a significant contributor to pollution and global warming.

So quit the old bad habits of wasteful idling and stressful revving. To get your car warmed up right, just start the engine and drive.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

"Aida Sevilla-Mendoza is out of the country. She will resume her column next week.—Ed."

Automakers, oil firms participate in safety bandwagon

By Tessa R. Salazar

RoAD Safety

AT LAST, it finally hit them, and now the yellow flag is up everywhere. With 3,000 people killed in road accidents every single day, the World Health Organization has realized and openly emphasized such accidents as a major health concern. Imagine, that number corresponds to six full-packed jumbo jets crashing every day. Up to 140,000 more are injured, 15,000 of them for life.

Car manufacturers themselves are blowing the safety bugle. Volvo Cars, for instance, declared a global reflector campaign yesterday, the date WHO declared its day for road safety. In a number of cities around the world, Volvo personnel went to places where many travelers were known to be unprotected after dark, and handed out nearly 70,000 reflectors—either snap-on or stickers.

Treats from automakers

Ford Group Philippines kicked off its road safety campaign with the unveiling of its road safety billboard on the Balibago/Tagaytay road last week. This initiative is part of a global effort by Ford Motor Co. to reinforce its commitment to occupant and pedestrian safety through a series of events and road safety initiatives aimed at reducing accidents, death and injuries caused by road traffic collisions.

Until April 10, Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. is conducting its summer service clinic and roadside motoring assistance program for Nissan car owners embarking on their annual Holy Week break.

Nissan car dealers have been offering the Safety Checkup Package, a promo where Nissan car owners can get 3.5 liters of Caltex NX Turbo motor oil for free.

The Toyota Summer On-the-road Service (TSOS) teams will be stationed in strategic Caltex stations all over the country ready to provide emergency roadside assistance for all Toyota motorists heading for the beaches and other remote spots this summer. Toyota expert technicians will be on hand to provide and offer assistance free of labor charge.

The Toyota service teams will be readily equipped with service equipment and genuine parts to handle common problems such as overheating, electric troubles, aircon, steering, brake and tire maintenance and checkups.

For travelers going up north, the TSOS stations will be placed near Caltex fuel stations located on Legarda Street, Baguio; La Union; Capas, Tarlac; and Olongapo-Gapan Road. Southern travelers can rely on TSOS stations located at Maharlika East Junction, Tagaytay City; and Barangay Halang, Calamba, Laguna.

Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari) and Pilipinas Shell offers free towing, labor assistance and checkup through "Kaibigan sa Daan" roadside assistance program.

Service stations will be in Tagaytay, Laguna, Olongapo and Baguio. Through its training school, the National Technical and Service Center, Hari is dispatching highly trained personnel to their service stations to give drivers and the riding public paramount technical assistance.

Petron Lakbay Alalay

From Holy Wednesday to Easter Sunday (except Good Friday), Petron Lakbay Alalay service points will be placed along strategic areas on the NLT (Sta. Rita and San Fernando), SLT (Silangan), and Star Tollway (Bulihan).

Apart from mechanical and towing services, Lakbay Alalay operatives will also provide medical assistance, cellular phone and information services, traffic monitoring, and free drinking water. Three Petron Express Centers (PEC) located along the tollways will likewise provide support for the program.

Caltex Summer Samaritan

Bring in your car for a rest and look-see in service tents from Isuzu, Nissan and Toyota in certain Caltex stations. Mechanics and service facilities from these top manufacturers will be ready for minor checkups and even car repairs if needed.

Check out the Metro Watch Radio Action Group in major highways and selected Caltex stations, too. Roving radio groups will monitor highways for any vehicle mishaps or problems and will call the nearest Caltex station with repair facilities for help. In certain areas, a tow truck, courtesy of 24-Heroes, will be on call for assistance. For Holy Week only, Caltex Summer Samaritan will also provide a vehicle towing service.

Forgot to unplug an appliance or leave out water for your pets? Smart Communications and selected Caltex stations will have your worries covered. Make emergency calls at a Caltex station on operational cellphones powered by Smart.

Medical assistance will be available through the participation of Red Cross volunteers.

Caltex gives motorists more reasons to make that stop at its nearest station this summer.

"Buti na lang, Prestone ang brake fluid ko."
Nasa mabuti kang kamay.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Sectors urged to make roads safer for kids

By Charles E. Buban

MOTOR vehicle crashes have become the second leading cause of death among children—14 years old and under—here in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury, nearly 67,000 children die in the region each year from motor vehicle crashes.

Most of these crashes occur in low- and middle-income countries where childhood road traffic injury death rate is at 11.6 per 100,000—nearly 2.5 times greater than that of the region's high-income countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and Japan, where the rate is at a low 4.7 per 100,000.

"If we don't do something now, this preventable injuries are poised to outrank diseases among children in developing nations in the next two decades," warned Health Undersecretary Tony Lopez during the launch of Safe Kids Walk This Way program, an international public awareness campaign for pedestrian safety.

Motor vehicle crashes rank ninth among the leading causes of disease burden worldwide, but if current trends will continue it will rank third highest by 2020, according to the World Health Organization.

MORE and more innocent schoolchildren are likely to be injured or killed every year if road safety rules will continue to be wantonly disregarded.

Global partnership

The program, a global partnership between Safe Kids Worldwide and FedEx (represented here by Safe Kids Philippines and AirFreight 2100), will work to improve the pedestrian environment and change driver behavior.

It will bring together parents, caregivers, FedEx volunteers and safety advocates to teach students safe pedestrian behavior, encourage motorist awareness of school zone safety and provide long-term support to communities by making neighborhoods and school zones safer for pedestrians.

Dr. Ramon Arcadio of Safe Kids Worldwide Philippines Inc. added that as a multifaceted program, Safe Kids Walk This Way will also include research, data collection and safety task forces involving local law enforcement agencies, all working to promote child pedestrian safety.

Proud partner

"AirFreight 2100 is proud to be a partner of Safe Kids Philippines. As the sole licensee of FedEx Express in the Philippines, we also share the world's largest express transportation company's concern to make our roads safer for everybody, especially children," said AirFreight 2100 chair Bert Lina.

AirFreight 2100 will encourage its employees to volunteer their time to educate schoolchildren about pedestrian safety.

A recent Safe Kids "walkability assessments" conducted by students at more than 270 schools in participating countries found serious hazards on at least half of the children's routes to school, including driver speeding, lack of sidewalks, complicated traffic conditions, improper parking and obstructed views of traffic.

"If we do something to address these serious hazards, then we can minimize or even eliminate injuries and deaths," said Lina.

Safe Kids and FedEx Express have been partners since 1999, when they created the first Walk This Way program in the United States.

WHO components

The Safe Kids Walk This Way program are components of the WHO's World Health Day, which adopted the theme Road Safety Is No Accident this year—the first time that motor vehicle crashes have been highlighted as a health risk.

The WHO aims to raise awareness of traffic safety in the hope of reducing the staggering number of traffic-related fatalities and injuries worldwide that occur each year.

To accomplish this goal, the WHO is encouraging individuals and organizations throughout the world to advocate for increased and sustained action in policy, programs, funding and research focusing on traffic safety.

Efforts was launched yesterday and will continue throughout the year.

WHO points out that the death toll is highest and still growing in low- and middle-income countries, where pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists and passengers are especially at risk taking the lives of 1.2 million around the world and seriously injuring millions more.

Globally, 180,000 children under the age of 15 die every year in motor vehicle crashes costing nations $520 billion (about P30 trillion) annually.

Safe Kids model

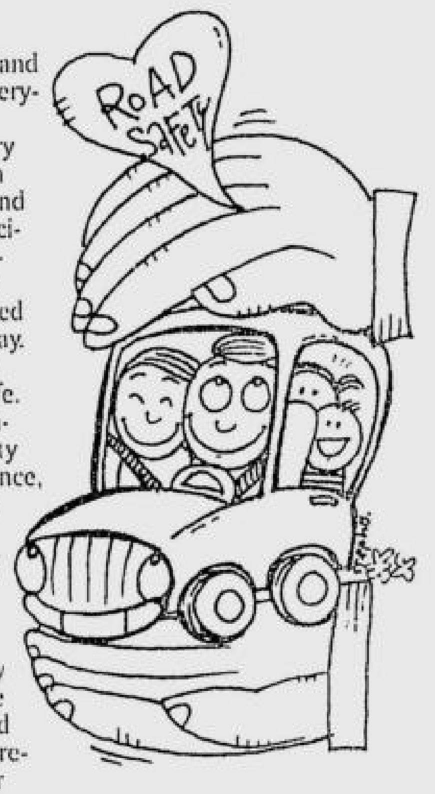
After five years and having worked with hundreds of thousands of students and hundreds of schools in the United States and South America, the program is now being replicated in Asia and elsewhere.

Each country's program is based on the Safe Kids model, which incorporates the following components:

- Education—to increase knowledge and change behavior with consumer communications, media campaigns and community-based activities.
- Empowerment—Empower parents and communities to take responsibility for their children's safety by fueling a national grassroots network.
- Environment—Increase the quality of children's lives by enhancing design, development and distribution of safety products, and by improving the environment in which children live and play.
- Enactment—Work to pass, strengthen and enforce laws, and encouraging the development of voluntary safety standards and guidelines to protect children.
- Evaluation—Determine the most effective behavior-changing strategies and programs through research, data collection and surveillance.

Automakers, oil firms participate in safety bandwagon

By Tessa R. Salazar



AT LAST, it finally hit them, and now the yellow flag is up everywhere. With 3,000 people killed in road accidents every single day, the World Health Organization has realized and openly emphasized such accidents as a major health concern. Imagine, that number corresponds to six full-packed jumbo jets crashing every day. Up to 140,000 more are injured, 15,000 of them for life.

Car manufacturers themselves are blowing the safety bugle. Volvo Cars, for instance, declared a global reflector campaign yesterday, the date WHO declared its day for road safety. In a number of cities around the world, Volvo personnel went to places where many travelers were known to be unprotected after dark, and handed out nearly 70,000 reflectors—either snap-on or stickers.

Treats from automakers

Ford Group Philippines kicked off its road safety campaign with the unveiling of its road safety billboard on the Balibago/Tagaytay road last week. This initiative is part of a global effort by Ford Motor Co. to reinforce its commitment to occupant and pedestrian safety through a series of events and road safety initiatives aimed at reducing accidents, death and injuries caused by road traffic collisions.

Until April 10, Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. is conducting its summer service clinic and roadside motoring assistance program for Nissan car owners embarking on their annual Holy Week break.

Nissan car dealers have been offering the Safety Checkup Package, a promo where Nissan car owners can get 3.5 liters of Caltex NX Turbo motor oil for free.

The Toyota Summer On-the-road Service (TSOS) teams will be stationed in strategic Caltex stations all over the country ready to provide emergency roadside assistance for all Toyota motorists heading for the beaches and other remote spots this summer. Toyota expert technicians will be on hand to provide and offer assistance free of labor charge.

The Toyota service teams will be readily equipped with service equipment and genuine parts to handle common problems such as overheating, electric troubles, aircon, steering, brake and tire maintenance and checkups.

For travelers going up north, the TSOS stations will be placed near Caltex fuel stations located on Legarda Street, Baguio; La Union; Capas, Tarlac; and Olongapo-Gapan Road. Southern travelers can rely on TSOS stations located at Maharlika East Junction, Tagaytay City; and Barangay Halang, Calamba, Laguna.

Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari) and Pilipinas Shell offers free towing, labor assistance and checkup through "Kaibigan sa Daan" roadside assistance program.

Service stations will be in Tagaytay, Laguna, Olongapo and Baguio. Through its training school, the National Technical and Service Center, Hari is dispatching highly trained personnel to their service stations to give drivers and the riding public paramount technical assistance.

Petron Lakbay Alalay

From Holy Wednesday to Easter Sunday (except Good Friday), Petron Lakbay Alalay service points will be placed along strategic areas on the NLT (Sta. Rita and San Fernando), SLT (Silangan), and Star Tollway (Bulihan).

Apart from mechanical and towing services, Lakbay Alalay operatives will also provide medical assistance, cellular phone and information services, traffic monitoring and free drinking water. Three Petron Express Centers (PEC) located along the tollways will likewise provide support for the program.

Caltex Summer Samaritan

Bring in your car for a rest and look-see in service tents from Isuzu, Nissan and Toyota in certain Caltex stations. Mechanics and service facilities from these top manufacturers will be ready for minor check-ups and even car repairs [illegible] needed.

Check out the Metro Watch Radio Action Group in major highways and selected Caltex stations, too. Roving radio groups will monitor highways for any vehicle mishaps or problems and will call the nearest Caltex station with repair facilities for help. In certain areas, a tow truck, courtesy of 24-Heroes, will be on call for assistance. For Holy Week only, Caltex Summer Samaritan will also provide vehicle towing service.

Forgot to unplug an appliance or leave out water [illegible] pets? Smart Communications and selected Caltex stations will have your worries [illegible]. Make emergency calls [illegible] tex station on operation phones powered by Smart.

Medical assistance will be available through the participation of Red Cross volunteers.

Caltex gives motorists more reasons to make that stop at its nearest station this summer.

EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Catch AUTO EXTREME every Sunday, 3:30 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in this section.

IS it necessary to rev your car before you drive it?

—Vincent John Bautista of Kalibo, Aklan

REVVING your engine right after you start it is probably one of the worst things you can do because that is when your engine is least prepared to handle the strain. Fifty percent of all engine wear occurs in the first few seconds after you start the car. That's when the oil is still cold and thick and hasn't spread around thoroughly to all the places it's supposed to protect. By accelerating before the oil reaches the top of the engine cylinders, you speed up engine wear and can do a considerable amount of damage.

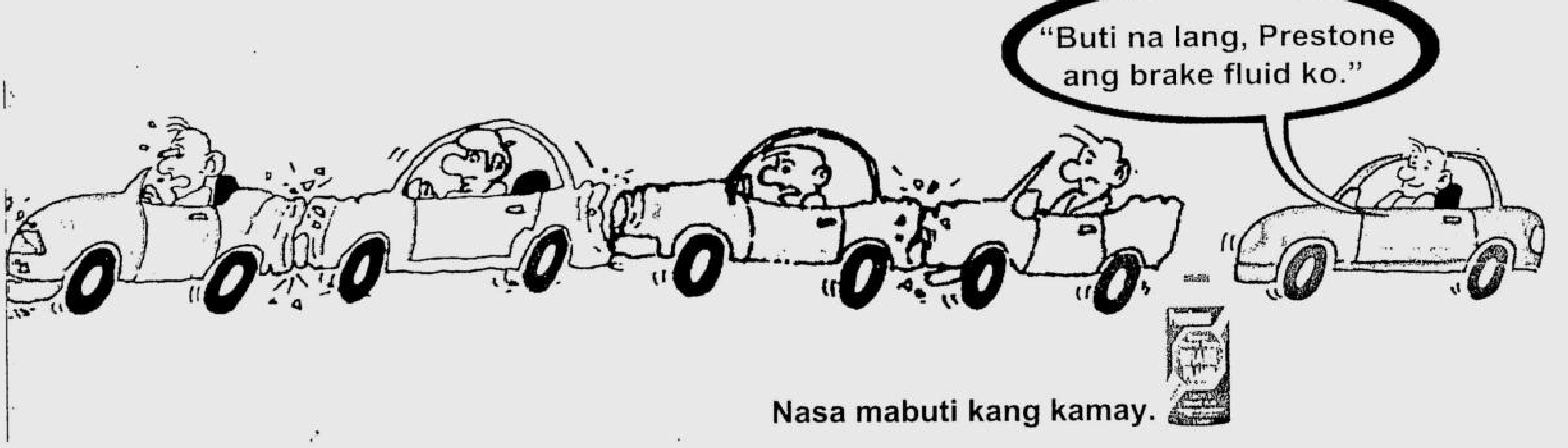
Another bad idea is sitting in your car with the motor running for several minutes to warm it up. With today's computer-controlled, fuel-injected engines, your car is all set to go right after you start it. Instead of idling for several minutes or revving your engine on a cold start, just drive gently for the first kilometer or two, or for about five minutes. Believe it or not, the engine warms up more efficiently while it's being driven, not while it's sitting idle. After all, things like wheel bearings, steering, suspension and transmission only warm up when your car is moving. On top of that, unnecessary car idling has been identified as a significant contributor to pollution and global warming.

So quit the old bad habits of wasteful idling and stressful revving. To get your car warmed up right, just start the engine and drive.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

"Aida Sevilla-Mendoza is out of the country. She will resume her column next week —Ed."


"Buti na lang, Prestone ang brake fluid ko."
Nasa mabuti kang kamay.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Thrilla in the Grilla /C3

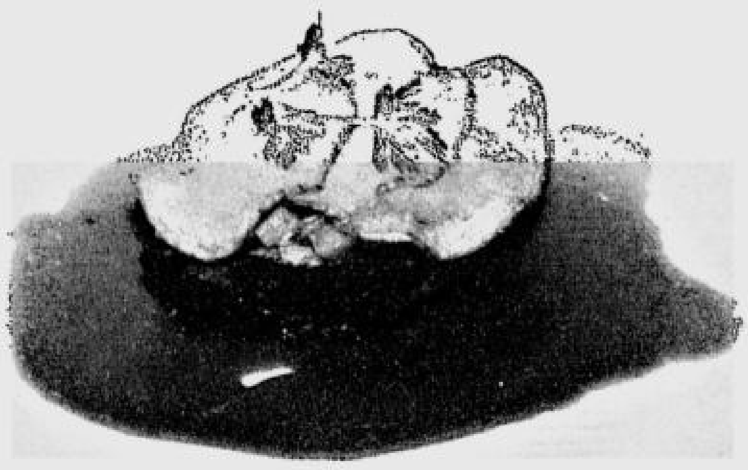
LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY **ARTS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **HOME & FASHION** ● SUNDAY **SURPRISES**

PAN-SEARED Scallops and Black Pudding with Ham and Parsley



PURÉE of Smoked Haddock and Saffron

STEWED Rhubarb with Lemon Cream

A taste of merry ol' England

A festival of traditional English dishes will run April 12-24 at the Peninsula's Old Manila

Text by Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Co ntributor
Photos by Randy Hormillosa

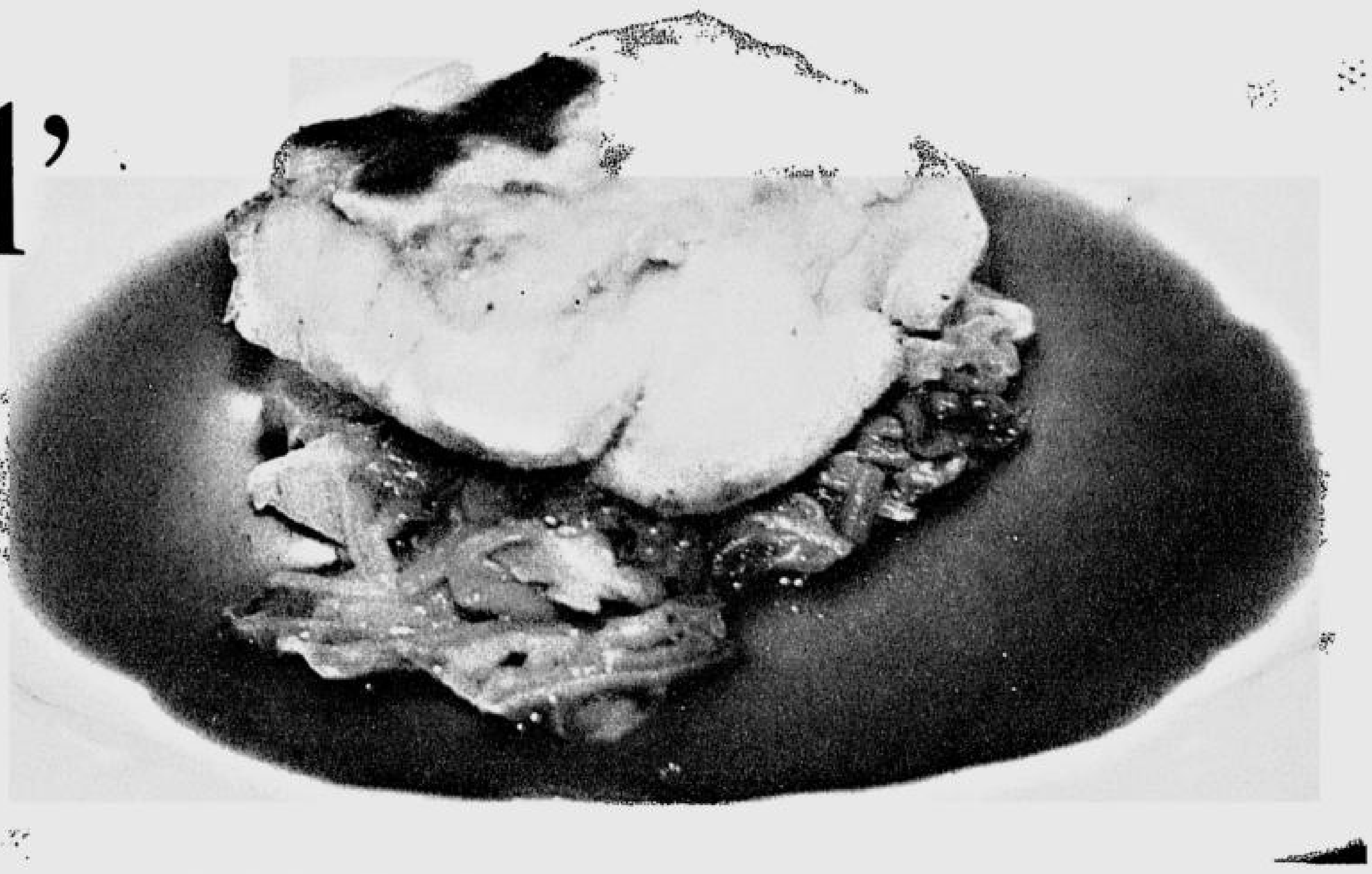
A PLAYFUL burst of pink and red tulips and white floating candles on the table and a bust of Shakespeare adorned with white roses and ivy at the corner of the room greeted us as we entered the Magsaysay Room of the Peninsula Manila's Old Manila.

It was as if the setting was giving us a hint of the wonderful dinner ahead of us.

When we say English food, what comes to mind normally is a plateful of roast beef accompanied by the classic Yorkshire pudding. Most of us who were invited to this dinner were expecting and looking forward to this classic dish, together with other standards like steak and kidney pie, fish and chips and summer pudding with clotted cream, plus a cup of English tea to properly end the meal.

We were in for a surprise. As chef de cuisine of Old Manila Adrian Mellor advised, "I would suggest that everyone try a small amount of English food before passing judgment."

"There are many traditional English dishes in everyday use which at their best can stand up to the best Italian and even French food," he added.



BAKED Fillet of Snapper, Welsh Rarebit and Madeira Sauce

Chunky and flavorful

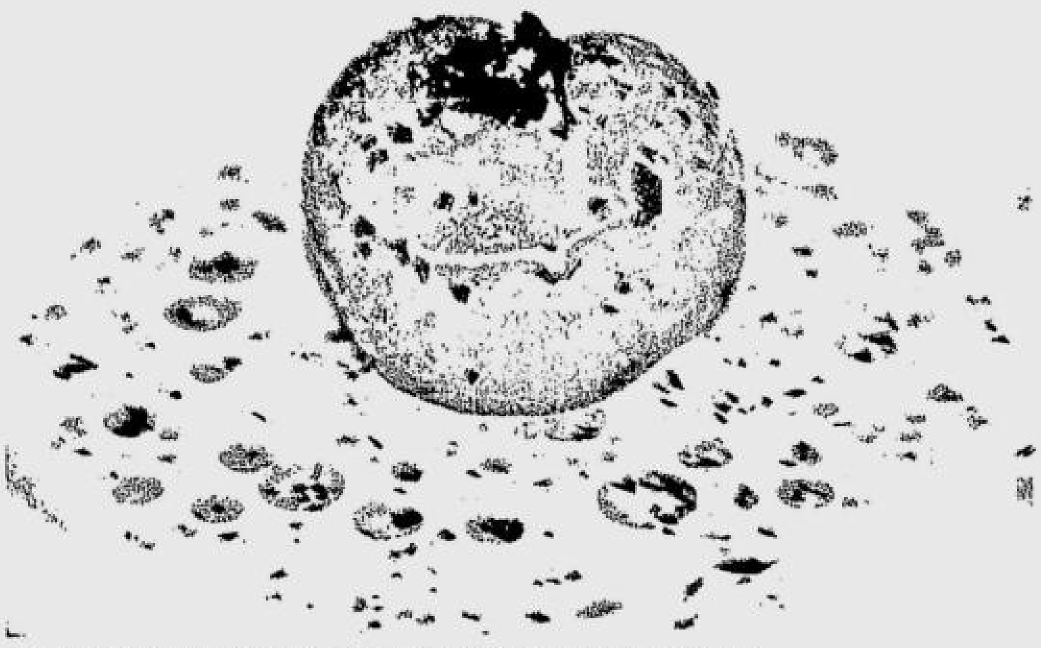
The 10-course dinner started with traditional Pork Terrine with Homemade Piccalilli, a chunky and flavorful meat loaf very much like our *embutido*, served with a bright yellow, piquant vegetable side dish. I liked the blending of flavors of the pork terrine, especially the chunky texture of this meat dish, but I found the piccalilli too sour for my taste.

This was followed by Braised Tomato With Crab Mayonnaise, Thyme and Ginger Butter. The presentation of the dish was very unusual, with a whole tomato sitting in the middle of a soup bowl surrounded by a white runny sauce punctuated with bright green specks. Everybody thought it was a soup and asked for a spoon. Tinkering with the plump tomato, you have to remove the top to get to the very tasty crabmeat filling.

After this dish I was already full, but reading the menu indicated we still had eight dishes more to go.

The next item on the menu was a soup with a cute name—Cock A Leekie Soup, Leek and Onion Scone, and sounding like a nursery rhyme. It is a clear soup with chunks of leeks, onion, potatoes and prunes. The addition of prunes to this otherwise regular clear soup with vegetables gave the soup an interesting tartness. Bite-sized scones filled with a creamy green spread accompanied this.

Baked Fish Fillet of Snapper, Welsh Rarebit and Madeira Sauce came soon after the soup. The generous serving of snapper was topped with a thin layer of cheese, which is the Welsh rarebit. The creamy, cheesy, salty topping provided the right balance for the very tender, white and bland fish.



BRAISED Tomato with Crab Mayonnaise, Thyme and Ginger Butter

Pan-seared Scallops and Black Pudding with Ham and Parsley followed this fish dish. I love scallops and I liked the way the scallops were prepared. It was very tender and not rubbery. It is so easy to overcook scallops, and I must commend the chef for cooking it to perfection.

Very creamy

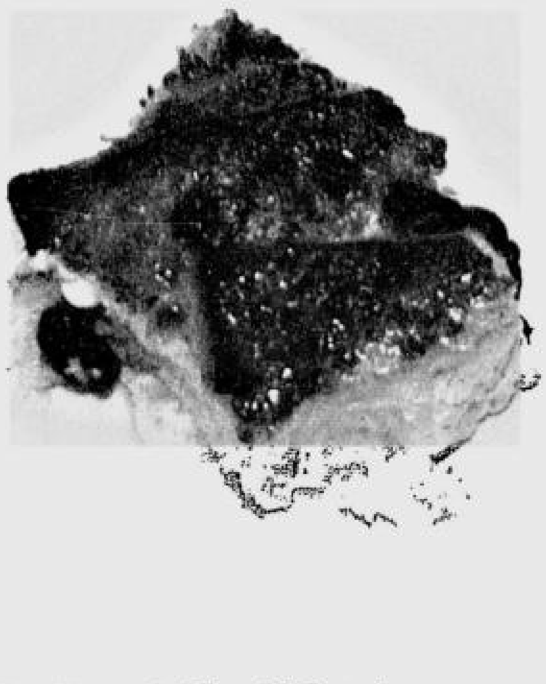
I also liked the black pudding, which is actually a chunky blood sausage, and the paper-thin slice of ham served with it. But I enjoyed them individually rather than as a whole dish.

Purée of Smoked Haddock and Saffron was a frothy liquid served in a rather slender teacup. Bits of smoked fish provided the contrast to this very creamy item. A glass of white wine helped in refreshing the palate in preparation for the next item on the menu.

As a meat eater, I enjoyed the Lancashire Hot Pot the most. Three paper-thin slices of crisp potato topped a medium rare steak playfully drizzled with a sweetish dark sauce.

A generous slice of Stilton cheese served with ruby port was a welcome respite. Everybody enjoyed this, especially with the basket of various breads that the Peninsula is known for.

A TASTE/ C3



BREAD and Butter Pudding with Custard

Where to go for what

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

YOU ASKED for it so here it is—the Market List. Happy Easter!

French, German, Swiss, Italian—from hard to find ingredients (cheeses, beans, pulses, corn meal, herbs, imported vegetables, Angus steaks, cured meats, sea scallops, veal, *foie gras*, rabbit) to gadgets, kitchen equipment and coffee machines. When you don't know what it is and where to find it, chances are Santi's Delicatessen has it.

- 7431 Yakal St., Makati City, 8441154
- Rockwell Center, Amapolo, corner Estrella St., Makati, 7298892
- Amber Avenue, Ortigas Center, 6388969 or 6388970
- Second level, Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang, 8503967
- 19 Richville Terrace Bldg., Annapolis St., Greenhills, 7225441
- 66 Timog Avenue, QC, 4268315

Spanish ingredients: *el vedado* (my favorite *chorizo*), *paellera* with burners, paella spices, flavored pasta (truffle, black chocolate), duck confit, *turrones* (the whole La Bruja line)—Terry's Selection, 2316 Pasong Tamo Ext., Karivin Plaza, Bldg. B, Unit 2, Makati, 8441816, 7297906 or 7297907; La Tienda, 8951651

Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese, Asian ingredients, baking and cooking supplies, Tulip Chocolates, dark cocoa powder, pour 'n whip—Chef'S Nook, 220 Pilat St., Addition Hills, Mandaluyong, 7245812

Korean grocery—Lee Song, 7 Amber Square, Escriva Drive, Ortigas, 6386465

Chinese grocery—Great Faith, Arranque Market, 7347473

Chinese vegetables, ingredients, fresh shiitake, herbs, lettuce varieties, fresh Thai chilies, UFO tofu—Lolita's, Farmers' Market, 9112567, 9128137; Zeny's Vegetables, Farmers' Market 9112101

Specialty lettuce, herbs, vegetables (retail and whole sale)—Edwin Sy, 9306978 or 09178101667

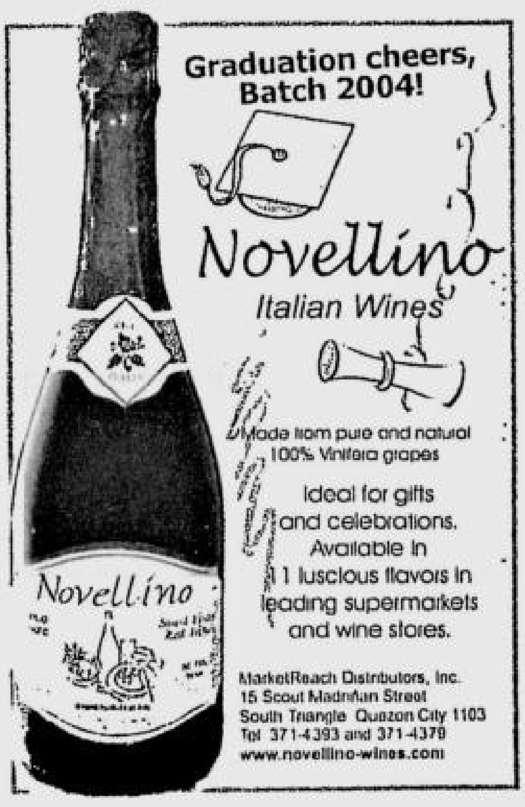
Baking ingredients, nuts, dried fruit, baker's chocolates and cocoa (bulk orders)—Link Import Export, 2418555

FRESH vegetables, including specialty lettuce, are available from Edwin Sy.

USDA meat, turkey, seafood, (bulk orders only)—PTC Commercial Corporation, 2150 Velasquez St., Tondo, 2568831-38, 2564430 or 2564422

Imported frozen fillets of sea bass, *mahi mahi*, salmon, flounder, creamdory, soft shell crabs—Sea Reyna, 5240006, 5247085 loc. 2351; Frozen Fish, Seafood Tofu, 4333580 or 0917-79974176

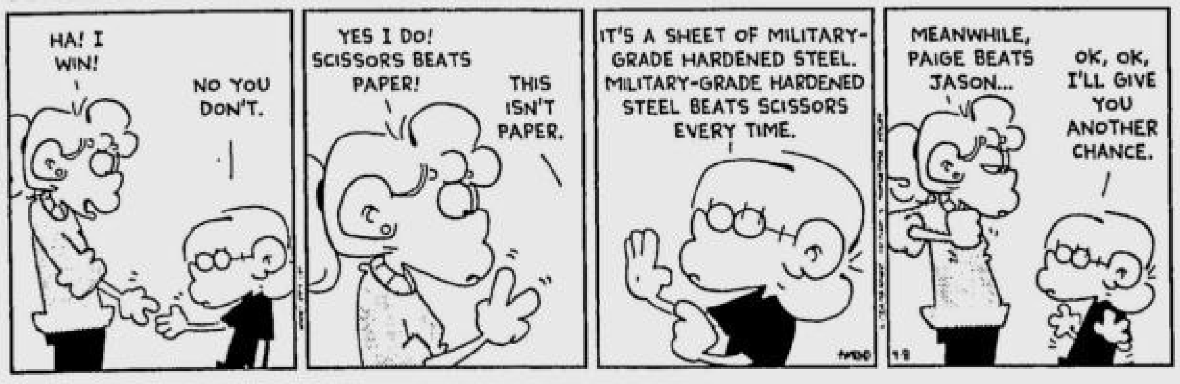
WHERE/ C3



Graduation cheers, Batch 2004!
Novellino
Italian Wines
Made from pure and natural 100% Vinifera grapes
Ideal for gifts and celebrations. Available in 11 luscious flavors in leading supermarkets and wine stores.
MarketReach Distributors, Inc.
15 Scout Madriñan Street
South Triangle Quezon City 1103
Tel 371-4393 and 371-4378
www.novellino-wines.com

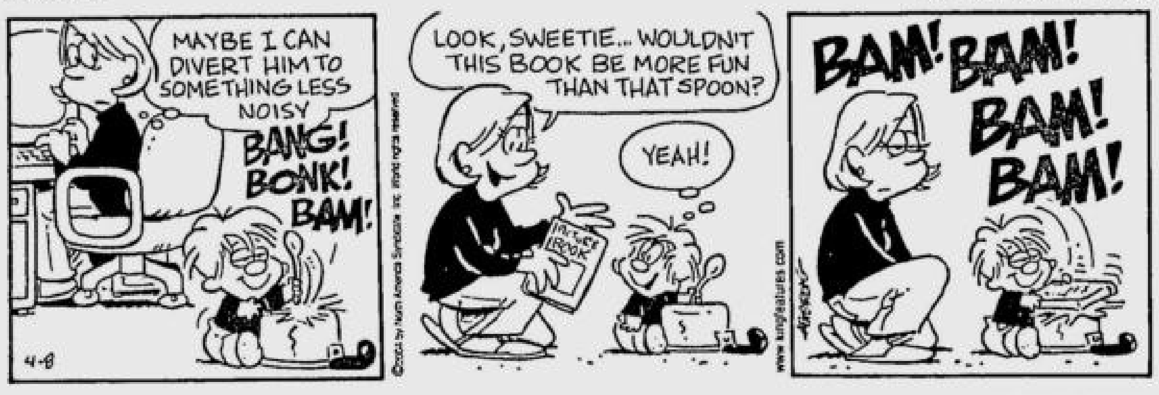
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HA! I WIN!
NO YOU DON'T.
YES I DO! SCISSORS BEATS PAPER!
THIS ISN'T PAPER.
IT'S A SHEET OF MILITARY-GRADE HARDENED STEEL. MILITARY-GRADE HARDENED STEEL BEATS SCISSORS EVERY TIME.
MEANWHILE, PAIGE BEATS JASON...
OK, OK, I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE.

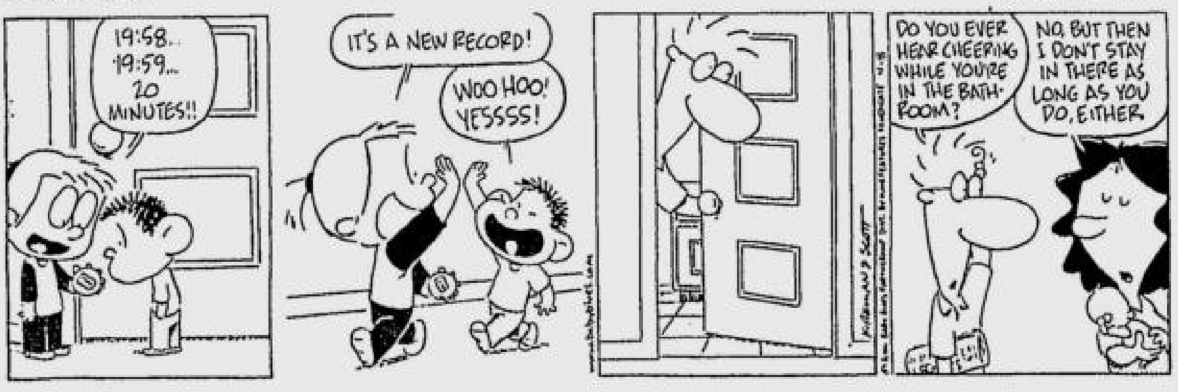
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MAYBE I CAN DIVERT HIM TO SOMETHING LESS NOISY
BANG! BONK! BAM!
4-8
LOOK, SWEETIE... WOULDN'T THIS BOOK BE MORE FUN THAN THAT SPOON?
PICTURE BOOK
YEAH!
BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM!
www.kingfeatures.com

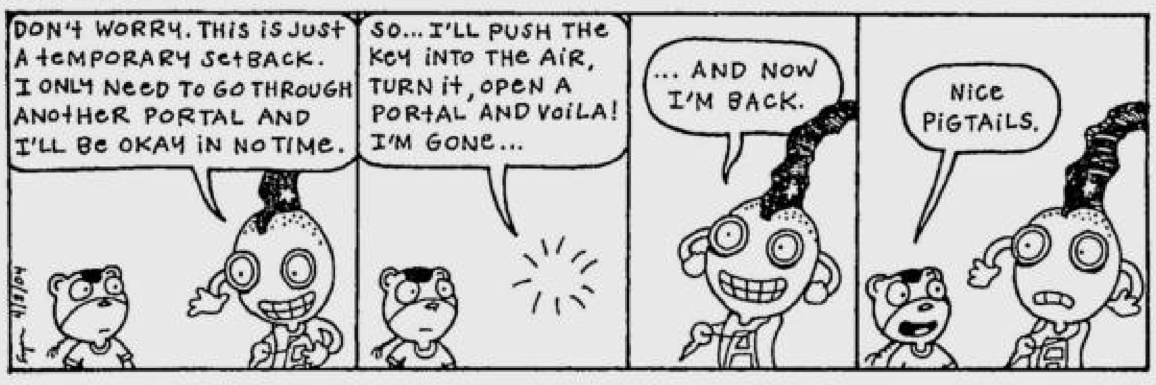
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


19:58... 19:59... 20 MINUTES!!
IT'S A NEW RECORD!
WOO HOO! YESSSS!
DO YOU EVER HEAR CHEERING WHILE YOU'RE IN THE BATHROOM?
NO, BUT THEN I DON'T STAY IN THERE AS LONG AS YOU DO, EITHER.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DON'T WORRY. THIS IS JUST A TEMPORARY SETBACK. I ONLY NEED TO GO THROUGH ANOTHER PORTAL AND I'LL BE OKAY IN NO TIME.
SO... I'LL PUSH THE KEY INTO THE AIR, TURN IT, OPEN A PORTAL AND VOILA! I'M GONE...
... AND NOW I'M BACK.
NICE PIGTAILS.
4/8/04

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are ethical and have high ideals. Whatever your success, you are often modest and shy. You genuinely want to make the world a better place. You fight for social reform, especially for the underprivileged. In the year ahead, you will wrap up much of what you have been involved with for the past nine years. **Birthdate of:** Patricia Arquette, actress; Robin Wright Penn, actress; John Schneider, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your sign has lots of pioneering spirit! You adore new turf, new territory, anything new. Why don't you explore something new today?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): If you have to research anything, today is the day to do it. Your mind is sharp, focused and penetrating. You're prepared to dig for the facts.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The Moon opposes your sign today, and this means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Be cooperative, patient and easygoing (like you always are).

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You tend to collect a lot of stuff. (Ya think?) It's because you can't throw anything away! (You think you might need it later.) Today is a good day to tidy up things.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This can be a fun-loving, flirtatious day for you. Look for joyful moments in this day. (Joy is something that springs from within, so it's completely under your own control.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Focus on a family member today, perhaps a parent. Be patient and kind. Don't take your loved ones for granted. (Life is short.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Mental games, crosswords, casual conversations and curious distractions appeal to you today. Keep busy. This is not a day to stay at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you go shopping today, be careful about going overboard. A little restraint is a good thing right now. (Don't go hog wild if you feel that way.)

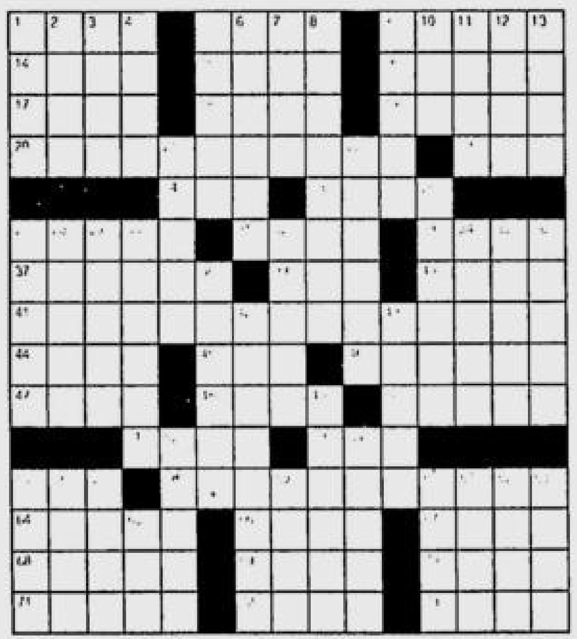
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Lucky you! The Moon is in your sign today, giving you a bit of an edge. It also makes you feel a bit more emotional about everything. Stay mellow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You need a little privacy in order to pull your act together before you take it on the road. Breathe deeply. Try to find 30 minutes of solitude just for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Friendship is very important to you. Today you might respond to someone in quite an emotional way. Perhaps you see just how much you care? (This is good.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): People notice you more than usual today. For whatever reason, you attract attention to yourself. (It's good to be aware of this.) Give extra consideration to your boss or to a parent.

DAILY CROSSWORD

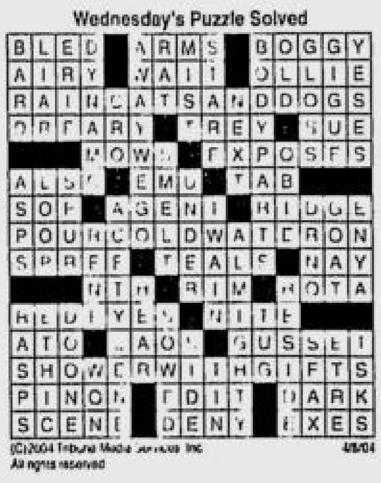


By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA
4/8/04

ACROSS
1 Military meal
5 Math subj.
9 Molten rock
14 Sore spot
15 One of the Chaplins
16 Well worker
17 Casual talk
18 1965 PGA champion Dave
19 Have faith in
20 Span at the Masters
23 Merry month?
24 Peer Gynt's mother
25 Agatha's contemporary
27 Get lost!
31 M. Descartes
33 French play part
37 Illegal activities
39 Narrow inlet
40 Common vetch
41 Site of the Masters
44 Lively dance
45 Start-up buttons
46 Millstream channel
47 Fashion magazine
48 __ and kin
50 Matheson in "Animal House"
51 Golf gadgets
53 Saturn model
55 Saturate
58 Garb at the Masters
64 Mirth
66 See ya!
67 Nonentity
68 Usher's path
69 Three-spot
70 In a short while
71 Leg-up
72 Concludes
73 Flag fabricator

DOWN
1 Speed-of-sound measure
2 Sound reply?
3 Uneven hairstyle
4 Stiff hair
5 Pyramids and mausoleums
6 Lion, at times
7 Calvary initials
8 Fragrant bloom
9 Highway lodging
10 Televise
11 Dejected
12 Flat-topped elevation
13 Pretentious
21 Titles
22 Legendary ones
26 Dine al fresco?
27 Frighten
28 Mean
29 Star in Orion
30 Good-luck charm
32 Physicist Mach
34 Shut up!
35 Outline
36 Moray catcher
38 "Dracula" author
42 Licorice liqueur
43 Entertainer Massey
49 Used innuendoes
52 Wading bird
54 "Love Train" singers
55 Wound coverage
56 Louisville's river
57 Miguel's money
59 Merit
60 Russian ruler
61 Vegas gambling game
62 Son of Aphrodite
63 Oodles
65 The Loop loopers

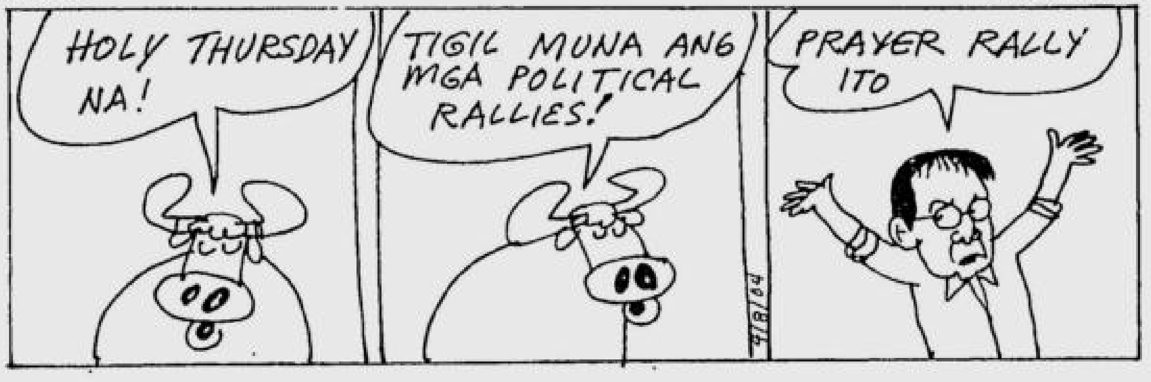
Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



(C)2004 Tribune Media Services Inc.
All rights reserved
4/8/04

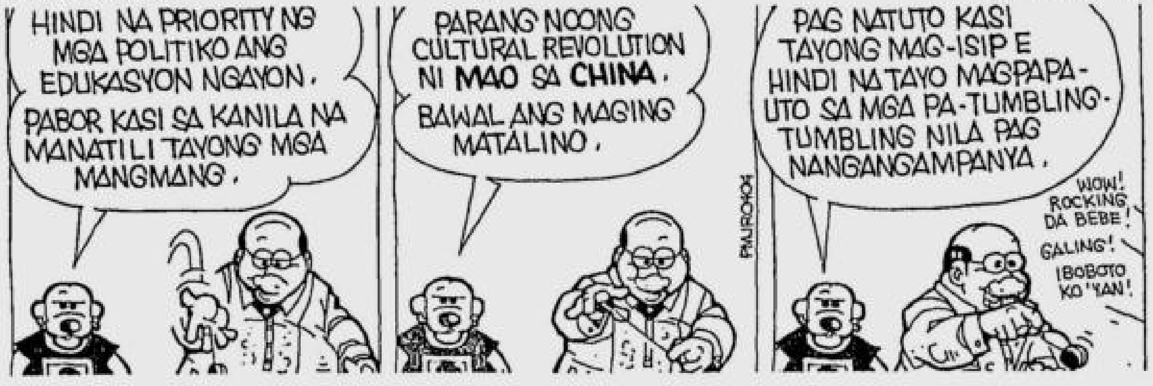
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HOLY THURSDAY NA!
TIGIL MUNA ANG MGA POLITICAL RALLIES!
PRAYER RALLY ITO
4/8/04

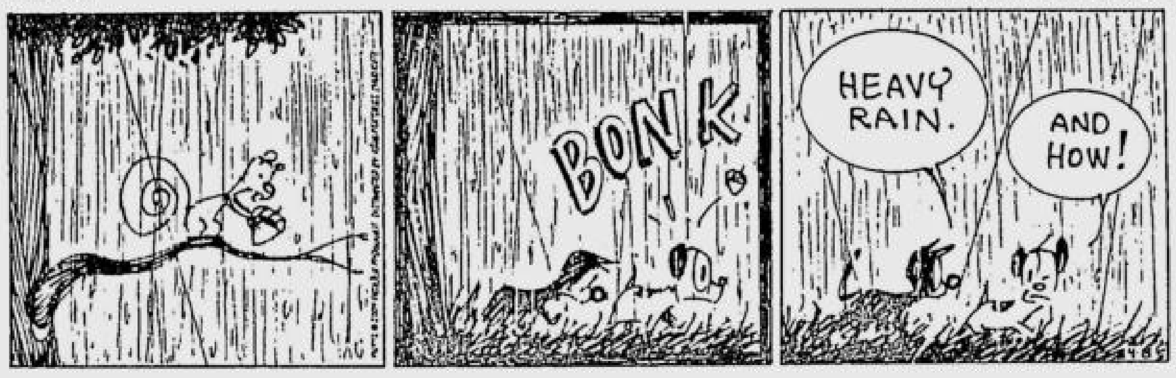
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI NA PRIORITY NG MGA POLITIKO ANG EDUKASYON NGAYON. PABOR KASI SA KANILA NA MANATILI TAYONG MGA MANGMANG.
PARANG NOONG CULTURAL REVOLUTION NI MAO SA CHINA. BAWAL ANG MAGING MATALINO.
PMJR0404
PAG NATUTO KASI TAYONG MAG-ISIP E HINDI NA TAYO MAGPAPAUTO SA MGA PA-TUMBLING-TUMBLING NILA PAG NANGANGAMPANYA.
WOW! ROCKING DA BEBE!
GALING!
IBOBOTO KO 'YAN!

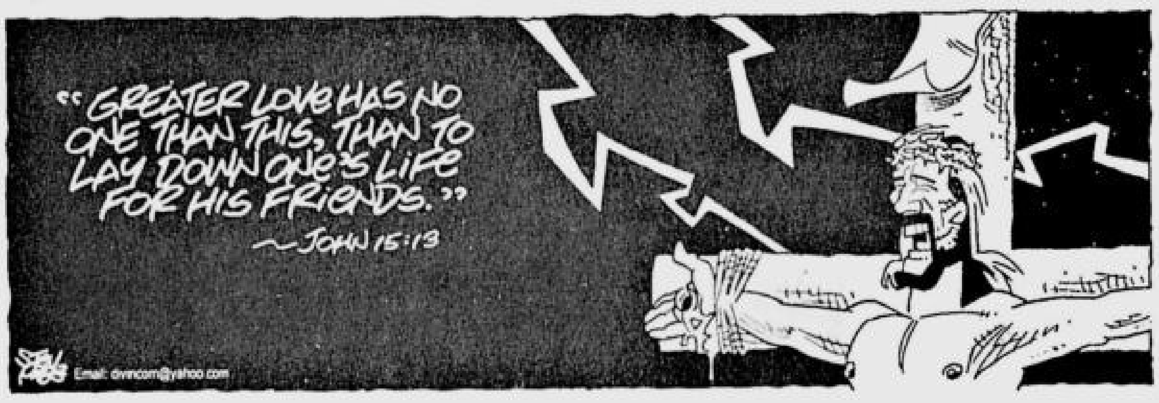
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BONK
HEAVY RAIN.
AND HOW!

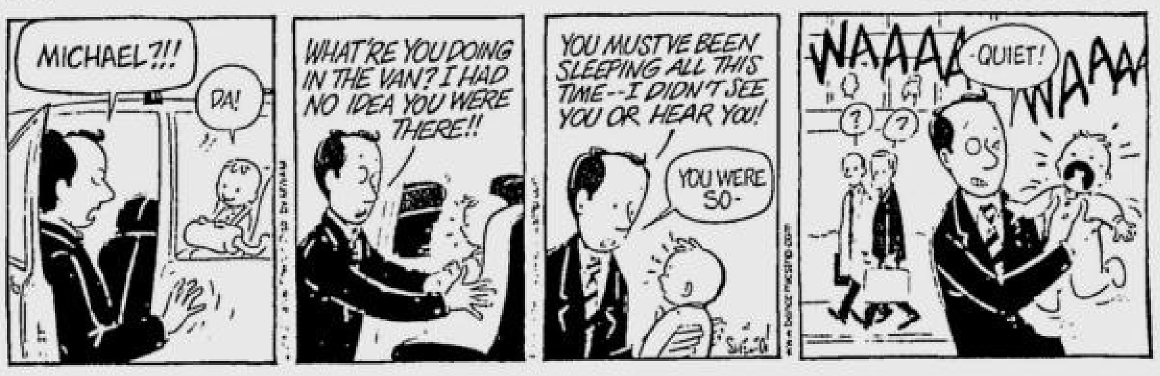
DIVINE REMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


"GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS, THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS."
~ JOHN 15:13
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

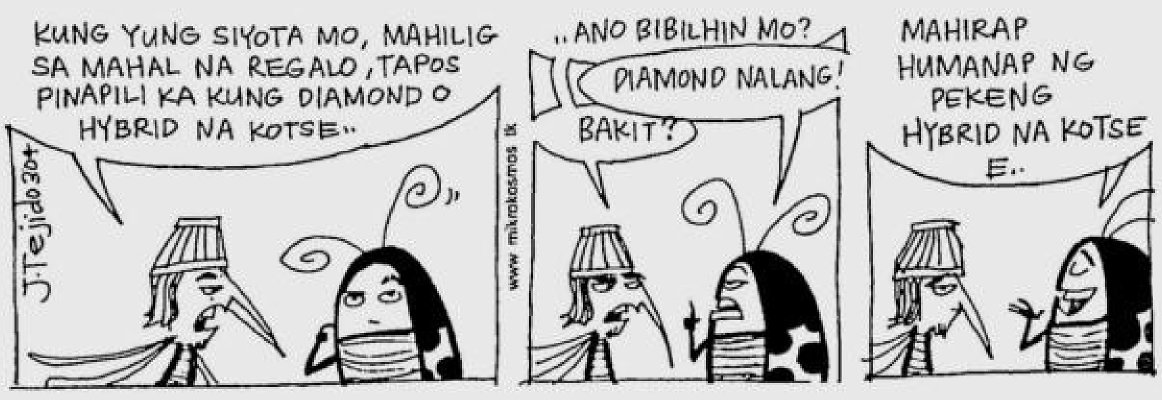
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MICHAEL?!!
DA!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THE VAN? I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE THERE!!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN SLEEPING ALL THIS TIME--I DIDN'T SEE YOU OR HEAR YOU!
YOU WERE SO-
WAAAA
QUIET!
WAAA
? ?

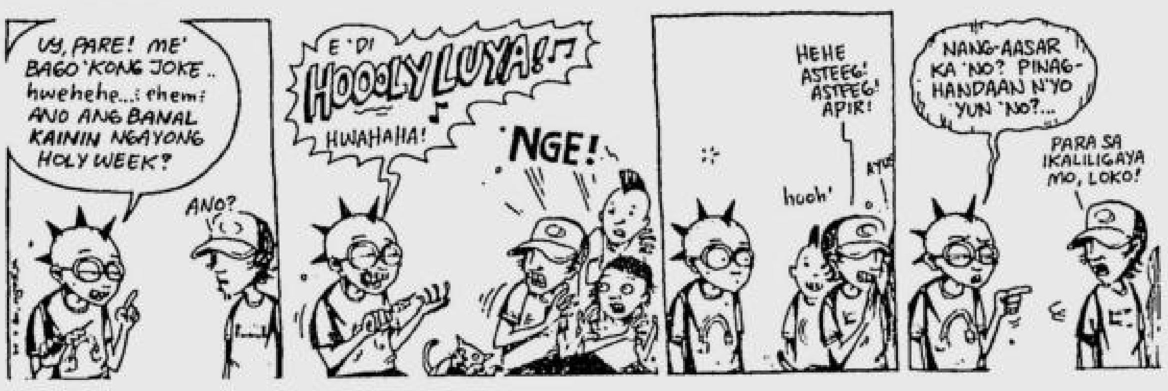
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUNG YUNG SIYOTA MO, MAHILIG SA MAHAL NA REGALO, TAPOS PINAPILI KA KUNG DIAMOND O HYBRID NA KOTSE..
J.Tejido304
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..ANO BIBILHIN MO?
DIAMOND NALANG!
BAKIT?
MAHIRAP HUMANAP NG PEKENG HYBRID NA KOTSE E..

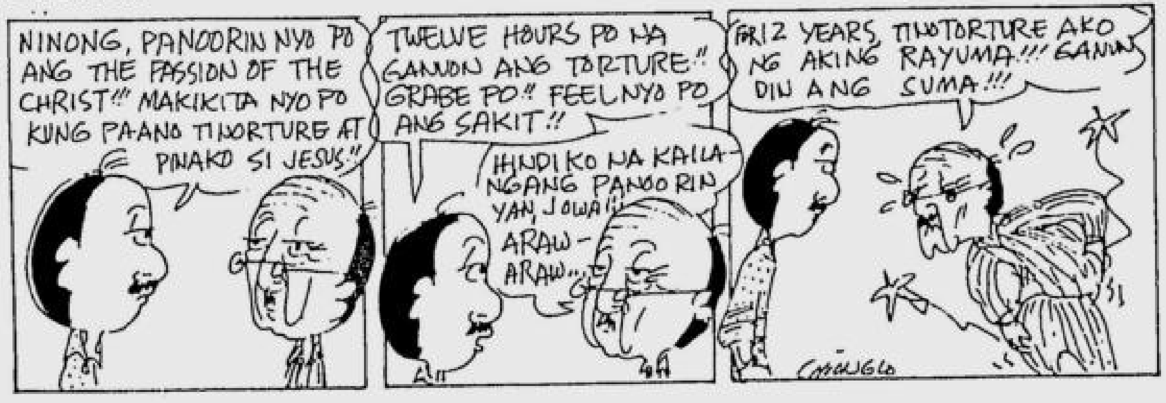
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY, PARE! ME' BAGO 'KONG JOKE.. hwehehe...:ehem: ANO ANG BANAL KAININ NGAYONG HOLY WEEK?
ANO?
E'DI HOOOLY LUYA!
HWAHAHA!
NGE!
HEHE ASTEEG! ASTEEG! APIR!
hooh'
NANG-AASAR KA 'NO? PINAGHANDAAN N'YO 'YUN 'NO?...
PARA SA IKALILIGAYA MO, LOKO!

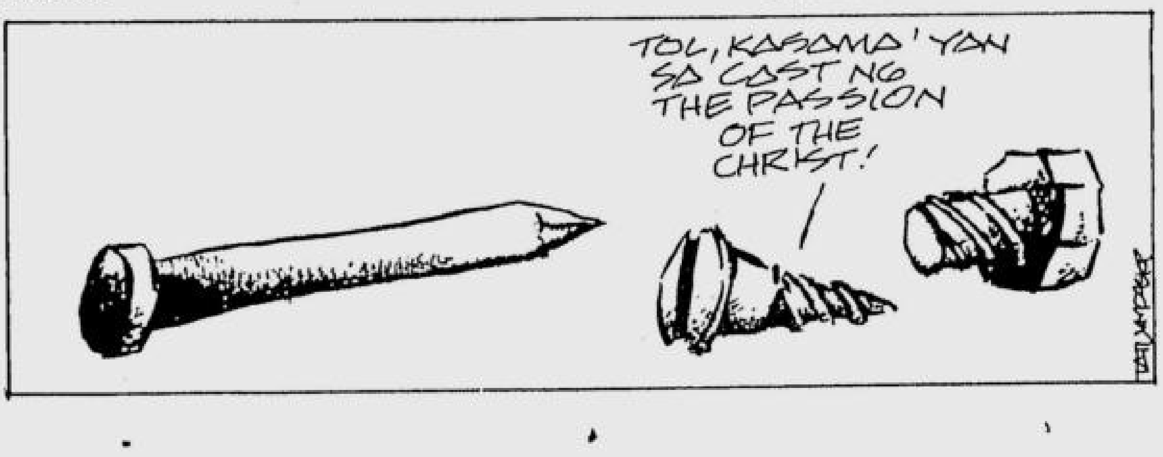
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NINONG, PANOORIN NYO PO ANG THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST!" MAKIKITA NYO PO KUNG PAANO TINORTURE AT PINAKO SI JESUS!"
TWELVE HOURS PO NA GANUN ANG TORTURE!" GRABE PO!" FEEL NYO PO ANG SAKIT!!
HINDI KO NA KAILANGANG PANOORIN YAN, JOWA!!
ARAW-ARAW...
FOR 12 YEARS, TINOTORTURE AKO NG AKING RAYUMA!!! GANUN DIN ANG SUMA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TOL, KASAMA 'YAN SA CAST NG THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST!

Reggie Aspiras' cooking classes

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts announces its schedule of classes for the next two weeks.

April 12—Do-it-yourself Mongolian Barbecue 101: Learn to prepare Mongolian Barbecue with everything on it, condiments and excellent sauces, cooked on the spot

April 14—Chinese 101: Hot Prawn and Chicken Salad, King Dao Spare Ribs, Kung Pao Chicken, Steamed Lapu-lapu Chinese Style, Broccoli with Garlic, Yang Chow Fried Rice, Almond Jelly

April 16—Delicious Hawker Food I: Asian Street Food, Pork Leg Stew with Gravy, Soy Eggs, Sausages, Greens and Rice, The Secret to Making Excellent Congee, Soy Sauce Chicken with Sambal Kangkong, Thai Sausage Rice, Delicious Clay Pot Rice, Oyster Cakes Mee Goreng (Fried Yellow Noodles), hawker drinks and desserts

April 17—Favorite recipes from Pinoy and grill restaurants, with some twists on the traditional: Pulutan—seafood, Tokwa't Baboy, homemade Chicharon, Sizzling Sisig and Tuna Sisig; Kinilaw—Sinugba Kilaw, Pusit; Soup—Sinigang na Tiyan ng Bangus sa Miso; Grilled dishes: Inihaw na Pusit, Tuna Panga, Belly and Buntot, Liempo and Chicken; Fried—Shishamo (Egg-filled Fish), Tuakang Fillet, Crispy Tadyang with Garlic, Very Crispy Pata Done Right; Rice—seafood and Adobo; Vegetable—Guinataang Puso ng Saging; Dessert—Buko Pandan; plus free beer tasting (special class P2,500 + ingredients)

April 19—Baking exquisite gourmet Filipino desserts: Pastillas Cake, Mango Shortcake with White Chocolate and Gata Cream, Kamoteng Kahoy Cheese Cake with Praline of Casuy Sauce, Deep Dish Caramel Guava Pie with Streusel and Homemade Quesong Puti Ice Cream, Leche Flan Cheesecake

April 21—Popular old-time restaurant favorites: Sopa de Ajo, Caesar Salad, Traditional, Seafood and Grilled Chicken, Salpicado with Garlic Rice, Prawns Thermidor, Lengua with Mushrooms, Paella, Mango Jubilee

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744, 0917-8399888.

Thrilla in the grilla

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

TO BEAT the summer heat, have a picnic on the beach or in the comfort of your own backyard. Here we have interesting grills to add thrill to your picnic menu—grilled eggplants, grilled chicken and an exotic grilled pork *adobo* with *pandan* rice.

Italian-style Eggplant Salad

3 large eggplants
2 sweet red bell peppers
¼ c olive oil or corn oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
Salt and pepper to taste

Roast the eggplant and bell pepper over live charcoal until charred. Allow to cool for a few minutes and peel off the black skin. Slice the eggplant into large chunks. Slice the bell pepper into thin strips.

In a mixing bowl, combine oil, garlic, eggplant and bell pepper. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Toss gently to mix and chill before serving.

Too-easy Grilled Chicken

1 chicken chopped into serving portions
1 head garlic, minced
1 onion, minced
Salt and pepper to taste
1/3 c vinegar
1 tbsp calamansi juice
1/3 c banana catsup
1 tbsp chili sauce

Marinate the chicken in garlic, onion, salt, pepper, vinegar and calamansi for an hour at room temperature. Cover the bowl with a sheet of foil and chill overnight.

Drain and reserve the marinade for the basting sauce.

Combine the reserved marinade together with the banana catsup and chili sauce. Mix well with a spoon.

Grill the chicken until done, basting with the prepared basting sauce from time to time.

Note: Half a kilo of pork chop or pork *liempo* may be used instead of chicken.

Grilled Pork Adobo Parcels with Green Rice

1 kg pork shoulder (*kasim*), cubed
1/3 c soy sauce
2 tbsp rice wine or dark rum
2 tbsp oyster sauce
1/3 c dark brown sugar
2 tbsp well-pounded garlic
½ c water
1 whole star anise (*sanke*)
1 pc bay leaf (laurel)
1 tsp ginger sliced into strips
Black pepper to taste

Pandan Rice:

18 pcs mature *pandan* leaves (screwpine)
2¼ c water
3 cups raw rice

Garnishing:

Chopped spring onions or sprigs of coriander/cilantro
Sliced tomatoes and salted eggs

Arrange pork in a stockpot. Pour in soy sauce, rice wine or rum, oyster sauce, brown sugar and garlic. Mix well. Let stand for 15 to 30 minutes. Then, add water, star anise, bay leaf, ginger and black pepper. Allow to boil and then simmer until pork is fork tender.

For the rice, cut the *pandan* leaves into two-inch lengths. Transfer to the pitcher of a blender. Pour in the water and process until the leaves are shredded into fine bits. Strain. Measure the liquid and add water to come up with three cups.

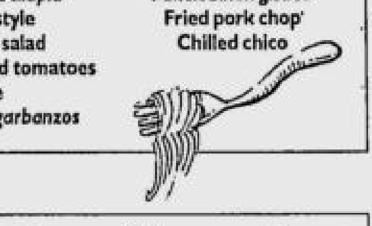
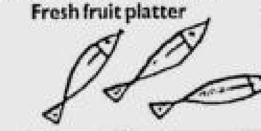
Wash the rice well and transfer to a rice cooker. Add the *pandan* liquid. Turn on the rice cooker.

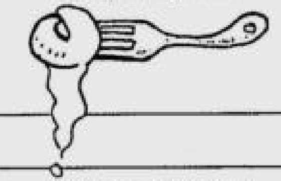
To assemble, spoon an adequate amount of *pandan* rice into a sheet of foil or a piece of banana leaf. Arrange pieces of *adobo* on top of the rice. Add about two spoonfuls of the *adobo* sauce and garnish with spring onions or coriander/cilantro. Wrap and seal well.

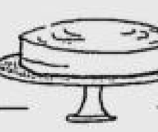
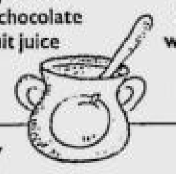
Before serving, grill the wrapped parcels for five minutes to reheat and develop flavors. Unwrap and serve with sliced tomatoes and salted eggs.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake-decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City, at the Julius Maggi Kitchen in Makati and in key provincial cities. For classes in Manila, call 7217735 or e-mail dorothyferreria@skyinet.net; for classes in Bacolod this month, contact (034) 4340445.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Beef *tapa* Fried eggs Garlic rice Coffee, chocolate or iced tea Bananas with cottage cheese	Chicken *tinola* with green papaya and *sili* leaves Rice Chilled star apple	Beef steak Boiled asparagus or Baguio beans with garlic butter topping Rice Ripe mangoes with *nata de coco* and cream
TUESDAY	Cereal and milk Vienna sausage Toasted *pandesal* with butter and *kesong puti* Coffee or fruit juice	Fried whole *tilapia* Italian-style eggplant salad Salted eggs and tomatoes Rice Sweetened *garbanzos*	*Pancit bihon gisado* Fried pork chop Chilled chico
WEDNESDAY	*Champorado* Toasted *dilis* or fried *daing* Fresh fruit platter	*Paksiw na pata* with peanuts Boiled baby *bokchoy* Rice or fried *bihon* Melon ala mode	*Sinigang na manok na may gabi, labanos at kangkong* Rice *Mais con hielo*
THURSDAY	Scrambled eggs with leftover *adobo* and spring onions Toasted bread Coffee, chocolate or iced tea Melon with cottage cheese	Chinese-style fried rice *Lumpiang* Shanghai Almond jelly with ripe mango balls	Clams with black bean sauce Steamed *mayamaya* Rice Fresh fruit salad
FRIDAY	Chicken *arroz caldo* Hot tea or iced tea Fresh fruit platter	No crust chicken pastel Rice *Buko* salad with pineapple	Pot roast Steamed spring vegetables with white sauce topping Rice or dinner rolls *Leche flan*
SATURDAY	Hotcake with butter and fruit jam Crispy bacon Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice	*Inihaw na bangus* *Suahe* or *sugpo* Fresh seaweed salad or cucumber salad with vinegar dressing Rice Fresh fruit platter	Spaghetti with meatballs Garlic bread Gelatin with milk and fruits
SUNDAY	*Sinaing na tuligan* or *paksiw na isda* Garlic rice Ripe mangoes Coffee, chocolate or iced tea	Too-easy grilled chicken Grilled pork *adobo* parcels with green rice Green mango salad *Halo-halo* bar	Pork *siomai* Steamed chicken Vegetable chopsuey Rice Fresh fruit salad



Where to go for what

From page C1

I own a restaurant and have great problems with rats and roaches. I'd tried three pest control companies but they weren't able to do anything about them. Moreover, their rates are exorbitant. Please help! I'm desperate!

MARTINA

Kitchen Rescue is coming to your rescue! After years of searching for the real thing, I found the exterminator of my dreams, the only one I would trust to deal with all flying and creeping creatures, Mario Cruz. He not only takes care of rats, the size of cats, roaches and termites but bat infestations as well! The treatment is odorless, eliminates 95 percent (if not 100 percent) of the problem after his first visit and very reasonable rates!

Eliminator Pest Control, 9214294 or 09178173680

Can you share with us your pumpkin cream soup? Thanks a lot and more power!

EVELYN

Pumpkin Cream Soup

1 kg pumpkin or squash, halved lengthwise, seeded
2 tbsp olive oil or melted butter

Preheat oven to 375°F. Pierce pumpkin several times with fork. Coat vegetables in oil and bake until squash is tender. Spoon out meat, discard peel.

2 tbsp butter
¼ c garlic, chopped
½ c each onion, carrot, celery and bacon, chopped
3-4 c chicken stock
Pinch of grated nutmeg
Salt and pepper to taste
1 c cream

Garnish: sour cream, chopped fresh chives or green onion and crisp fried bacon bits (optional)

Heat up saucepan, melt butter, sauté garlic, onions, bacon, celery, carrots. Add pumpkin and stock, then purée mixture. Add in cream, add stock as needed to achieve desired consistency. Stir soup over medium heat until heated through. Season to taste with salt pepper and nutmeg. Ladle soup into bowls. Top with dollop of scour cream, chives and bacon.

Will you please help me? What bakery equipment for commercial purposes should I buy/must have?

ANGEL

I asked my kitchen equipment fabricator to prepare a quotation and a basic list of what you may need to put up a simple bakeshop. This may give you a clearer picture of how much you'll roughly need for this endeavor. Good luck!

WHEN you don't know what it is or where to find it, go to Santi's.

- Stainless steel double deck oven, 12 planks, gas fired, P65,000
- Stainless steel two-compartment sink tables, P38,500
- Stainless dough table with mid and bottom shelves, P30,000
- Stainless steel cooling rack, P25,000
- Mixer, depending on size, P25,000 and up
- Miscellaneous, bowls, pans etc., depending upon type of operation, P15,000- up

Get in touch with Ms Ghie of JCG Kitchen Works. I guarantee the work that she does, customer relations are excellent—meaning, *madaling kausapin at masarap tawaran!*

For questions and comments, text 0917-8399888

A taste of merry. . .

From page C1

And finally, what is dinner without dessert? We were treated to two delightful desserts—Stewed Rhubarb With Lemon Cream and Bread and Butter Pudding with Custard. If you wish to have no-frills desserts with straightforward flavors, these two items on the menu are worth the trip to Old Manila.

The rhubarb was pleasantly tart, made attractive with the bright pink color of the cream. It actually reminded me of fresh raspberries topped with a generous amount of cream with a playful hint of lemon.

The bread pudding was very British, the top crusty as expected and the thick layer beneath smooth as silky cream.

Cooking class

While we were having dessert, chef Adrian Mellor joined us at our table to announce that the Tasting England Food Festival in Old Manila will run from April 12-24.

Part of the festival calendar is an exclusive cooking class from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on April 24 to be conducted by the chef himself in the kitchen of Old Manila. This is part of the Peninsula Academy Culinary Program and is limited to 12 participants only.

Mellor will showcase a three-course menu featuring Cock A Leekie Soup with Savory Leek and Onion Scones, Welsh Rarebit, Braised Savoy Cabbage, Natural Jus and the Classic Summer Pudding with Clotted Cream.

While having a cup of coffee with a plateful of Peninsula chocolates as a fitting ending to this wonderful meal, I came to the conclusion that the words of chef Mellor telling us, "it's high time the world stop underrating English food," is correct.

The experience at Old Manila has completely erased my preconceived notions of how boring English food can be. It definitely is not.

For restaurant and cooking class reservations for the Tasting England Food Festival, call 8872888 locals 2949 and 2953.

Don't just text them, e-mail them

THE CONSUMER
Mariella Velasco Giron

TWO e-mail senders from the province complained that they could not access the consumer complaint hotline of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) through the cellular phone number we mentioned last time. We suggest that they send their message to DTI by e-mail (i-reklamo@dti.gov.ph). It is more convenient and they can better explain their complaints.

By the way, DTI requires complainants to mention their full names and addresses, otherwise their complaints will not be entertained.

Over the past weeks, we received an odd assortment of complaints about pyramiding scams, raffle sales promotion, violation of senior citizen's discount privilege, rotten service by airlines and repair service centers, defective products, etc. Here are some of them:

Disconnection

Anna Ruth P. Conde (annaruth@skyinet.net) wrote: "We pay our bill at SkyCable on a quarterly basis, and our next bill was due end of March, or so we thought. Last March 25, however, our cable TV service was discontinued without notice. There was no statement of account, nor any phone call.

"We called up (the SkyCable) call center, and all they could tell us was to pay our arrears and the service would be re-connected. We requested for a copy of the billing statement so we could pay at a convenient Bayad Center. The bill arrived March 29. It was dated March 13. Nonetheless, we paid immediately, hoping the cable TV service would be restored. Until today, April 1, they have not restored the service."

(According to SkyCable's call center operator, it is company policy to discontinue service due to non-payment. Service will be reconnected only after the bank or Bayad Center has posted actual payment to SkyCable's system.

The operator also says the company is not answerable for loss or non-delivery of subscriber's bill because it is the responsibility of the hired courier service.

To avoid disconnection of service, subscribers are advised to pay their account on time. If they don't get the bill, they should inform the call center right away and ask for their statement of account.)

Thanks, but no thanks

Home Cable subscriber Serapion Metilla related the following experience: "Attached to the statement of account from Home Cable was a flier announcing that subscribers would be given a camera. Eagerly, I went to the office address printed on the flier to claim the camera. But while I was there, the office clerks tried to sell me gadgets and household items.

"I insisted I was not interested to buy anything and then left with my camera. It was obvious the camera gift was just a ploy to sell their company products.

"Eager to try out the camera, I loaded it with film and started taking pictures. It wouldn't work. I found out later that the camera brand was Olymbus and there was no user's instruction in the box."

Metilla added, "I complained to Home Cable. They apologized and reasoned it was just a promo. Why does Home Cable get involved in this kind of sales gimmick? I find it a waste of time and a dirty trick on subscribers."

Is this a scam?

From S. Francisco: "We received a text announcing that we won P920,000 from an electronic draw by a certain charity foundation in the Philippines. They didn't tell us to deposit any money to their account. Please find out for us if this foundation exists. We live in the province and there is no way we can check from our end. By the way, we researched this foundation in the Internet but found nothing about it."

(We don't have to check if the foundation is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. They may be registered, for all we know. And so were Multitel and other pyramiding companies. Our advice is to ignore the text. Remember that foundations exist on donations and they cannot afford to give away almost a million pesos to one lucky cell phone owner they don't even know.)

Foot dragging at the bank

Vera V. (vera_762004@yahoo.com) has every reason to complain about the snail-paced service at Security Bank-Rizal/Locsin Branch in Bacolod City. "It took the bank teller all of one hour and 15 minutes to finish the transaction of just one client! I thought the service would be faster after that but I was wrong. It took another 15 minutes to serve two other customers. Finally, after waiting for one and a half hours, my number was called and my transaction was over in a minute. I was looking for a suggestion box to drop my complaint, but there was none."

E-mail the columnist at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

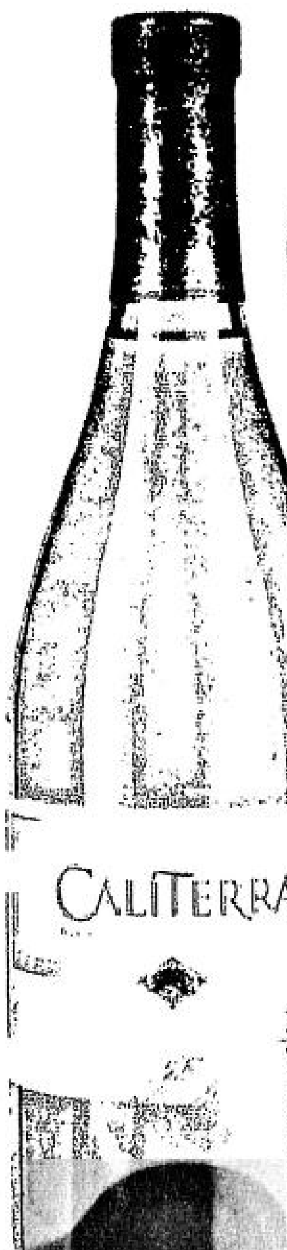
THE AUTHOR, president of Anthony's Grand Cellar, with Lawrence Bruno, World Bank consultant-IT urban planner

SELINA de Venecia with Tower Club GM Willem Penterman

MAGNUM Wine Cellars and Restaurants Inc. managing director Victor Tayao, Cecille Mauricio and Restaurant 9501's Myrna Segismundo

The new rage of wine aficionados is Caliterra, earth's sweetest vintage

Salud Chile!



By Tita Meneses-Trillo
Contributor

MAGNUM Wine Cellar Bar and Grill was packed with a beautiful mix of hoteliers, restaurateurs, wine aficionados of the corporate and off-premise world.

The irresistible crowd was totally mesmerized. Caliterra wines were poured endlessly while Nicolas Saelzer, regional director of Caliterra, was amazed with the enthusiastic response of the discriminating crowd who were raving about the great varietals.

Relating briefly how enamored I was when I first visited Chile, I got carried away with my honest impression of this beautiful country, once run by a military dictatorship. Paradise is how I described this place. Chile is a narrow strip of land that is 2,700 square miles long and an average of 70 square miles wide. On the East, it's flanked by the Pacific Ocean, on the West the Andes Mountains; on the North the driest desert in the world; and on the South Antarctica. The foothills of the Andes Mountains, on the Central Valley, are fed with pristine water from the melted snow coming down to the vineyards, thus, enriching the alluvial terroir with pure minerals, perfect for wine growing. This environment has produced wine that is richer in sun and definitely richer in taste.

Fully prepared

The food in Magnum was carefully prepared to enhance the wines of Caliterra. We started with Empanaditas (Cheese with onion and spices) and Ham and Cheese with chives; Ceviche-Marinated Tanigue with tomato, onion, ginger and chili in cilantro vinaigrette paired with Caliterra Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc 2003, a wine that is fresh, fruity with intense aromas, featuring papaya, grapefruit, pineapple and banana.

We went on to the second course, which was Chilean Salad of roasted red beets, shaved carrots, corn and bacon bits served with greens in balsamic jus, matched with Caliterra Syrah 2000, a medium-bodied wine with a velvety texture and with round tannins depicting cherry and chocolate flavors on the palate.

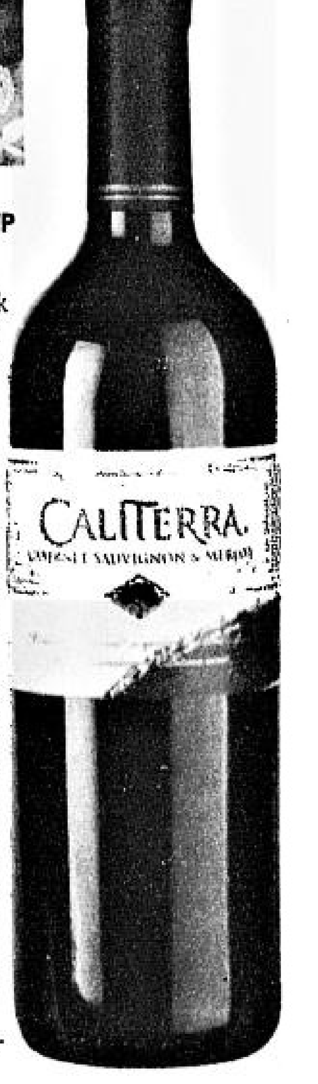
The big surprise was the Grilled Tenderloin, which was grilled to perfection, with sweet potato gratin, assorted vegetables and pepper au jus. It was enjoyed with Caliterra Cabernet Sauvignon 2002, a deep red-colored wine with aromas of cassis, black berry, raspberry and hints of menthol. It was indeed a great combination of delicate nuances—an epicurean delight.

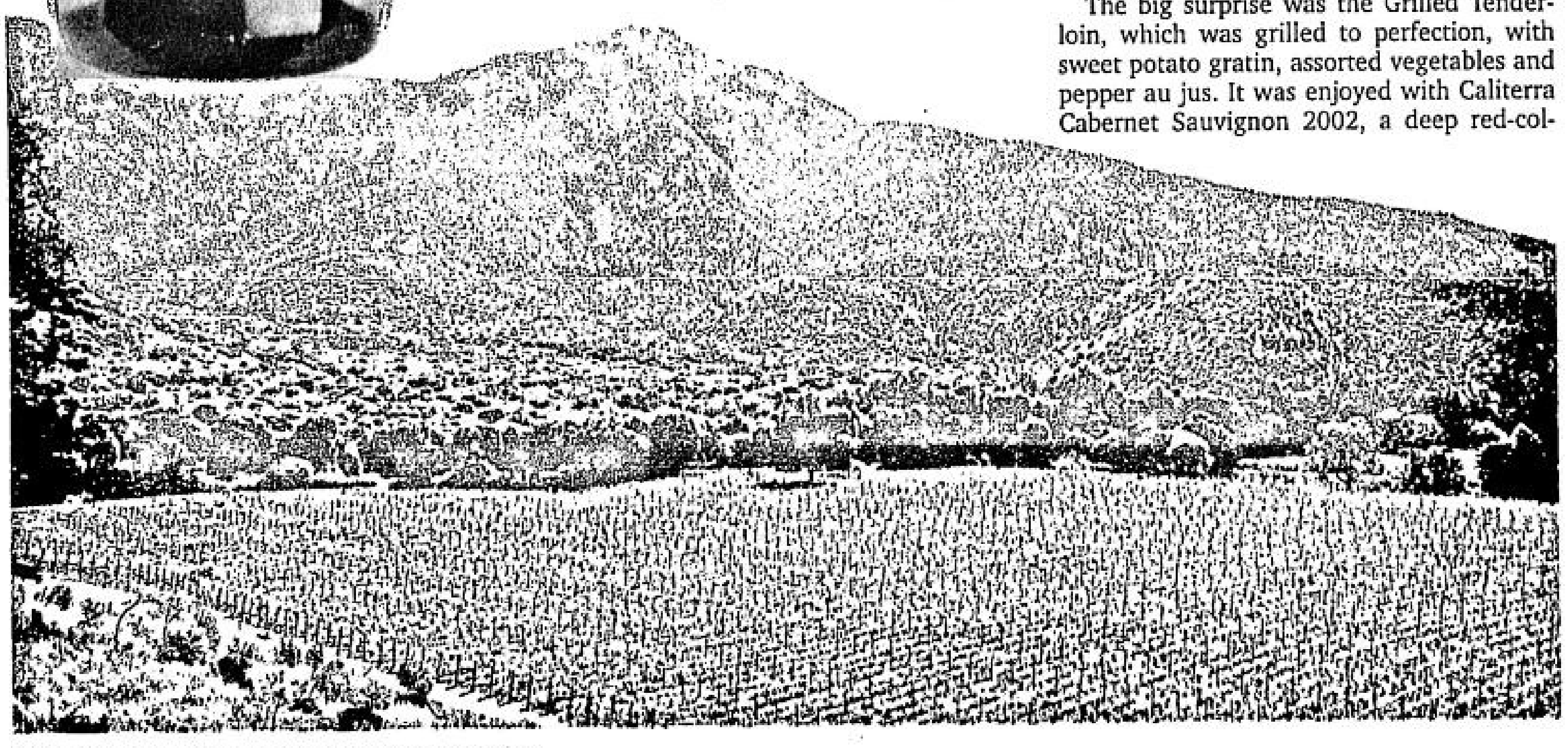
I could feel the vibrant crowd engrossed with the food and wine-tasting. Saelzer introduced Caliterra with serious notes. Caliterra belongs to a new generation of Chilean wineries, combining the creative innovation of New World winemaking and the distinctive traditions of Chile. Named for "la tierra," Caliterra reflects "quality" (*calidad*) and the "land" (*tierra*) of Chile. It was established in 1996 as a joint venture between the Robert Mondavi Winery of California and the Viña Errazuriz of Chile, with the aim of creating a range of wines that would express the great quality of the fruit grown in different Chilean appellations. Both partners share a passion for producing high-quality wine and strongly believe in the Chilean terroir's potential to produce world-class wines.

As the night progressed, everyone was happily savoring the liquid gold of Caliterra, which caught everybody by surprise because of its high-quality taste.

MANILA Diamond Hotel GM Fritz Weber, restaurateurs Colin McKay (Sala), Kaitlin Ryan (Long Grain), and Dixie Mabanta

NICOLAS Saelzer, Caliterra's regional director for Asia, and Annie Trillo-Rocha, VP for sales of Anthony's Grand Cellar





CALITERRA Los Morros Vineyard, Maipo Valley

Hearty Easter celebrations

DINING OUT

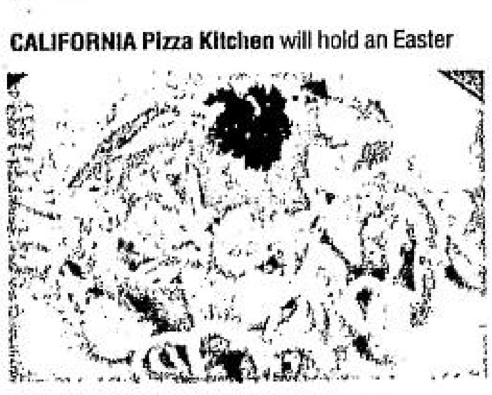
SUPER Bowl of China and Big Buddha Restaurants treat children to free desserts on Easter Sunday. Dine with the whole family and let your kids enjoy either the Mango Pudding, Almond Jelly with Mixed Fruits or Deep Fried Sesame Balls. Upon dining, Easter eggs will be given to children. These contain stubs indicating the dessert they can claim. Super Bowl is located at Megastrip of Megamall; Jupiter Street, Makati; Glorietta 4, Ayala Center; Chefs Avenue, Alabang Town Center; 2nd level of SM City North Edsa. Big Buddha is located at the 2/L of Greenbelt 3, Makati.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Island Café offers a special Easter buffet today until April 11. It includes appetizers, seafood, international dishes and delicacies. At Gourmet Corner, avail of Easter Nest Brioche, cakes and chocolate eggs and bunnies. Call 8400884.

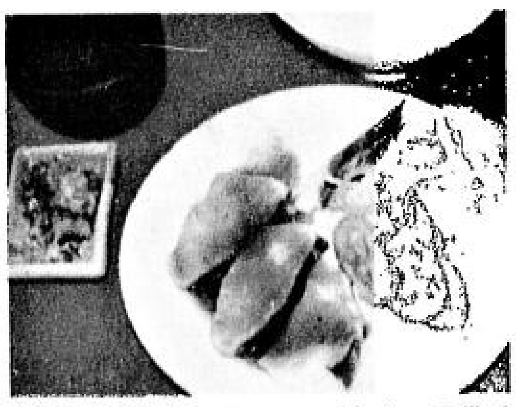
CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen will hold an Easter egg hunt on April 11, 3-4 p.m. A registration fee of P200 entitles your child to a CPKids meal on Easter. CPK is located at Glorietta 3, tels. 8939898/ 8939999; Alabang Town Center, 8505771/ 8506752; Shangri-La Plaza, 6877841/ 6877842; Tomas Morato, 3727371/ 3727372.

SULO Hotel's Café Paraiso offers an Easter buffet of Pork Spareribs in Barbecue Sauce, Baked Mussel in Herbs Butters, Seafoods Tempura, Fried Lumpiang Shanghai, Beef in Oyster Sauce with Broccoli, Herbed Roast Chicken, Fried,Crab Wanton with Garlic Butter and Buttered Fresh Mushroom/Spinach and Carrots. At Sushi/Teppanyaki, Grilled Salmon topped with lemon butter sauce is offered at half the price. Call 9245051.

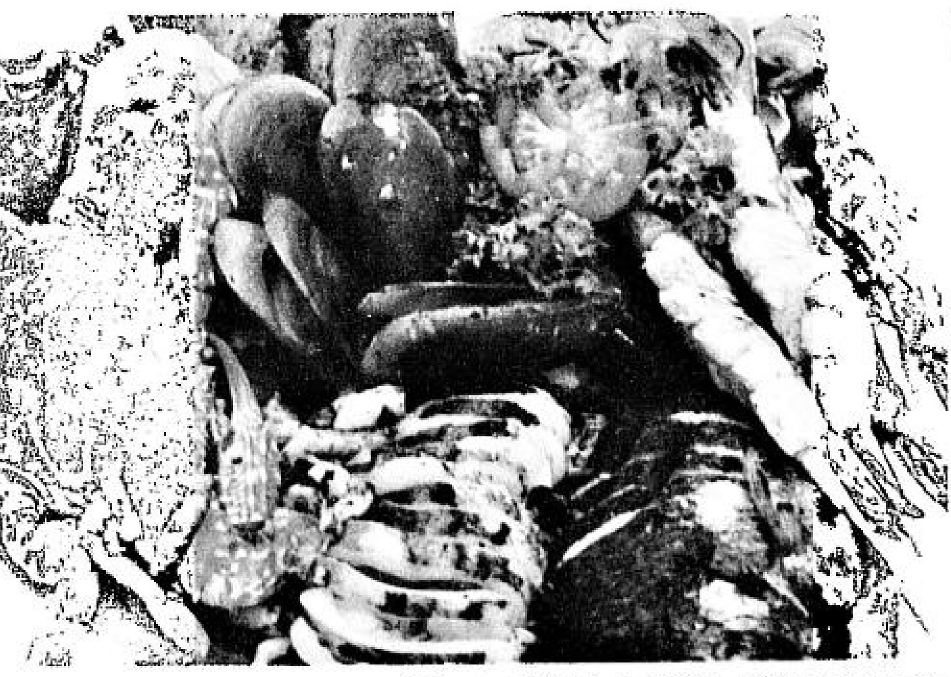
RICHMONDE Hotel's Richmonde Grill prepares a buffet of appetizers, entrees and desserts for P800 which includes a free pass to the Easter Egg Hunt party. Call 6387777.



UCC offers a free cup of coffee of the day for every seafood dish entree every Friday in all its branches. Choose from Seafood Salad, Shrimp and Kani Sandwich or Seafood Omurice. Promo is ongoing until April 19.



SULO Hotel's Sushi/Teppanyaki offers Grilled Salmon as dish of the month at 50-percent off.



PANTALAN Maynila Restaurant presents seafood specials this month. These include Relyenong Bangus and Pinaputok na Pla-pla. Pantalan is located at the corner of South Road (T.M. Kalaw Ave.) and Parade St., Rizal Park, Ermita, Manila. Call 5250514/4004371.

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza's Café Plaza offers an Easter brunch buffet. The Sunset Pavilion will be transformed into a toy land on April 11. Egg hunts start at 9 a.m. followed by dress-me-up game, coloring contest, building tilt and other activities. Call 5515555.

BELLEVUE Hotel holds promos for families until April 11. Spend two nights at the hotel's deluxe room for P5,000+ for a family of four. Guests availing of the promo are entitled to two complimentary tickets to the Easter Wonderland Party. Other perks include a 20-percent discount on buffet lunch and dinner at Café d' Asie Asian Specialty. Call 7718181.

EDSA Shangri-La offers 10-percent discounts at its restaurants until April 10. Eat seafood at Garden Café or dine al fresco at Poolside with brunch buffet. Avail of lunch and dinner set menus at Summer Palace, Nishiki and Paparazzi or enjoy the Lobby Lounge's Easter High Tea. Call 6338888.

HERITAGE Hotel Manila's Restaurant Riviera and Poolside feature steaks, seafood and shabu-shabu. Kids can take part in egg games, ice cream-eating contest, yoyo exhibition and Easter egg hunt. Call 8548888.